0856-B-03

PREX 7.10: FBIS-EAS-92-077

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

#99-015340 dw

FBIS-EAS-92-077
Tuesday
21 April 1992

COMPLETED

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-077 *21 April 1992*

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Japan

Keidanren Urges Successful Uruguay Round Talks

OW2004122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The Federation of Economics Organizations (Keidanren) said Monday it has joined seven U.S. and European business organizations in calling for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

The powerful Japanese business group said the appeal was made in a joint statement released ahead of a meeting Wednesday between U.S. President George Bush and European Community (EC) Commission President Jacques Delors in Washington to promote the trade negotiations.

Keidanren officials said the statement called on leaders of participating nations to make a political decision to help bring the talks to a swift end.

Differences over the thorny farm issue between the United States and European Community have jeopardized the negotiations sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A similar appeal was made by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe recently in a letter sent to U.S. trade negotiator Carla Hills and EC Vice President Frans Andriessen. Keidanren officials said the statement expressed concern that a prolonged deadlock in the negotiations might undermine the world's free trade system and lead to greater protectionism.

The statement supported a draft agreement prepared by GATT head Arthur Dunkel as "a major step in the right direction," the officials said.

They said the statement appealed to leaders of negotiating parties to make a decision which would pave the way for the signing of "an ambitious and comprehensive trade pact."

Groups which joined in the appeal included the U.S. National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe.

Automakers Experience 'Aggravated' U.S. Sales

OW1804163092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Japanese auto makers have been experiencing aggravated sales in the U.S. market. In order to bolster business in the United States, automakers have begun taking full-scale sales recovery measures, including accepting U.S. automakers' capital participation in their plants in the United States.

Mazda Motor Corporation began operation of its Michigan plant five years ago. During the last five years, the plant operated at a deficit. Mazda is likely to record a deficit again this year. In order to overcome business difficulties, Mazda has decided to enter into a joint venture with Ford Motor Company, with which Mazda has close ties, by accepting 50 percent of Ford's investment into its Michigan plant. Making use of this opportunity, Mazda can increase its production while letting Ford manufacture cars with steering wheels set on the right-hand side, which will be exported to Japan. Beginning in August Nissan Motor Corporation plans to manufacture models that it did not produce in the United States in the past, so as to double its production in the United States. Beginning in July it will market a minivan model developed in cooperation with Ford. Meanwhile, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation plans to increase exports to Europe from its plant in the United States. Mitsubishi started selling its U.S.-made cars in Germany last month, following business in Sweden and Australia.

In the backdrop of Japanese automakers' full-scale sales-recovery measures lies their aggravated business in the United States. They are pressed to promote localization in order to alleviate car trade friction with the United States. How they should overhaul their business practices in the United States has become a great task for Japanese automakers.

Businessman on Revitalizing U.S. Auto Industry

OW1704142792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 (KYODO)—Tatsuro Toyoda, a newly chosen vice chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, said Friday he would like to help revitalize the U.S. automotive industry, utilizing the long experience he has had in the United States.

Toyoda, executive vice president of Toyota Motor Co., made the remark at a press conference.

He forecast a gradual decline in Japanese car exports to the U.S.

Takashi Imai, executive vice president of Nippon Steel Corp., who was picked earlier as another vice chairman of the association, told the same press conference that he would make concrete suggestions to rectify the imbalance in Japan's industrial structure.

Komeito Members Petition Kato on Port Return

OW1904050292 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 18 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—Taking advantage of the opportunity of the forthcoming 20th anniversary of Okinawan reversion to Japan, six Diet members from Komeito asked Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato to settle Okinawan problems, such as the return of the Naha Military Port and a mainland-Okinawa gap in welfare pension allowances. Among those six Komeito members who met Mr. Kato at the prime minister's official residence on the afternoon of 17 April were permanent member of the Planning Committee Ichiro Watanabe, Policy Board

Chairman Nobuaki Futami, and Okinawan Affairs Division Director Eiichi Tamaki.

After the petition, Mr. Watanabe told the press as follows: "Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato positively said that the government would like to 'ask ministries in charge to cope with' issues concerning the return and postreturn utilization of the Naha Military Port and Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield as well as expanding the free trade zone to promote frontier trade."

In addition to the above-mentioned proposals on the Naha Military Port, Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield, and frontier trade, the Komeito Diet member's nine-point petition to Prime Minister Miyazawa included a 10-year expansion of high-rate subsidies, a correction of the regional gap in welfare pension allowances, government compensation for malaria victims during wartime, early construction of a monorail system, a reduction in domestic airfares, and subsidies for promoting the economy on isolated islands and in depopulated areas.

They explained to Mr. Kato the special circumstances concerning Okinawan affairs, and asked him to "settle these problems on the occasion of the 20th reversion anniversary."

While Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato did not give a definite commitment on the return of Naha Port and Yomitan Airfield, nor on promoting frontier trade, he noted that the government intends to positively work on these issues. Also, he said that the government knows the welfare pension gap is an important issue for Okinawan people, but it is "very difficult" to comply with the Diet members' petition on this. After the petition, Representative Tamaki said: "Komeito lodged the proposals to prepare for the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion. We felt that the government gave us a favorable reaction, and that we can expect considerable progress on these issues."

Official Indicates Negative View of Base Return

OW1804073892 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 18 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—In his regular news conference held on 17 April, Director General Kazuo Fujii of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] touched on the return to Japan of U.S. military bases in Okinawa. He said: "In the face of the 20th anniversary commemorating the reversion of Okinawa to Japan set for 15 May, the Foreign Ministry seems to harbor wishes for the return of the military bases, but at this point we have not yet reached the stage of turning this wish into reality since there are difficult aspects to be solved." He thus indicated a negative view on making the return of military bases "a gift" for the 20th anniversary of reversion.

There have been rumors about the return of Naha's naval port to celebrate the 20th anniversary of reversion. However, Director General Fukui urged the local people to pool their opinions in this respect. He said: "Since the local people are divided about their intentions toward all-out return and partial return, there is no definite wish as to what should be done on this issue."

In response to the question of "whether or not a list detailing the return of military bases and the like will be suddenly announced at the ceremony on 15 May," he emphasized: "At the present stage there is no such outlook with respect to the various military bases in Okinawa. If ever there is the slightest possibility of such a return, we will cooperate with the Foreign Ministry in such an endeavor. However, we are not at the stage of saying there is hope for having such-and-such a base returned." However, the Director General disclosed that "the Foreign Ministry does harbor a wish for making the return of the bases a gift," and even hinted at the possibility of making an official announcement about the return of the military bases, according to circumstances.

On the other hand, referring to the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) on Kadena Air Base, the Director General said: "We received the message that the operation is behind schedule, but we have not heard when work will be completed. The lower house Environment Division meeting will soon be held. I think this issue will be clarified during the meeting."

Gorbachev Continues Comments on Bilateral Issues

Views 'Initial Step' in Dispute

OW1804112092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Osaka, April 18 (KYODO)—Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev predicted Saturday [18 April] there will be an initial step toward settling a territorial dispute between Japan and Russia in the near future.

Gorbachev, on a two-week tour of Japan, made the prediction in a meeting with business leaders led by Osamu Uno, chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation.

"An initial step will be seen in a very near future," Gorbachev said, speaking on the longstanding dispute over the ownership of four Russian-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

His remark was taken to suggest that there is a high possibility that the two countries will move toward a compromise settlement on the dispute in the near future.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, meanwhile, offered a compromise solution to the dispute in a speech in Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, on Saturday.

Watanabe said Japan would temporarily allow Russia to administer two of the four disputed islands—Kunashiri and Etorofu—after the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries if Russia confirms Japanese sovereignty over them.

Under a 1956 agreement, the former Soviet Union pledged to return two other islands—Habomai and Shikotan—to Japanese rule.

Gorbachev welcomed a concept for the development of a Japan Sea economic sphere as helpful to promote relations between Japan and Russia.

The idea calls for establishing an open economic zone in the Tumen River Basin in a region where Russia, China and North Korea share borders.

Gorbachev expressed hope that economic interchanges between Russia and the Kansai region will develop.

He made the remark in response to a request by Minoru Yamada, vice chairman of the Kansai Productivity Center, that he ask the Japanese Government to increase budgetary appropriations to promote personnel interchanges between Japan and Russia.

Gorbachev and his party, including his wife Raisa, left Osaka for the ancient capital of Kyoto to continue his tour of Japan.

Says Russia Needs Western Aid Now

LD2104101192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 20 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo April 20 TASS—"Russia needs Western aid now", former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, now on a private visit to Japan, said at a meeting with Japanese businessmen in Nagoya on Monday.

Gorbachev called upon Western countries to help Russia as the collapse of democratic reforms in the country will trigger dangerous consequencies for the whole world.

Russia counts on technological cooperation with Japan. There are prospects for joint projects on a private level between Japanese companies and enterprises of the Russian Far East, Gorbachev pointed out. Russia can learn a great deal from Japan, which has the experience of restoring its economy in the post-war period, he said.

During his 12-day visit to Japan Gorbachev visited Hiroshima, Osaka and Kyoto. On Monday he returned to Tokyo and he is expected to leave for Moscow on April 22.

Libya Discloses Countermeasures for Sanctions

OW1904063292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] In response to the Japanese Government's taking sanctions against Libya on 15 April, including reducing Libya's diplomatic presence in Tokyo, and in line with UN sanctions, the Libyan Government informed the Japanese side on 15 April of its position on taking the same measures against the Japanese Embassy in Libya. Japanese Envoy Numata in Libya was informed of this by the Libyan Foreign Ministry on the night of 15 April. According to the Libyan Foreign Ministry, the Libyan Government, as countermeasures, will reduce the embassy staff from six to five by reducing one member, and place restrictions on trips in Libya, meaning Japanese Embassy staffers will be required to get prior permission for trips within Libya, with the exception of Tripoli and airports.

Study Group Urges Relaxed Air Fare Controls

OW1704152592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—A study group within the Fair Trade Commission on Friday proposed relaxing government controls on international air fares for flights originating and arriving in Japan, a move that could lead to cheaper fares for travellers.

In its first ever report looking at air fares, the study group said it is no longer necessary to exempt such air fares from antimonopoly rules now that the fares are "essentially" set through competition.

Air fares are presently exempted from the antimonopoly law, allowing airlines to form a cartel through the International Air Transport Association (IATA), a fare-negotiating body with 204 members which groups most of the world's airlines.

The report urges that discount air tickets be available for individual travelers as well as for the group travelers already eligible to purchase such tickets, and that airlines be allowed to offer bigger discounts.

The report, which comes at a time when the number of Japanese travelers going abroad has surpassed 10 million a year, drew harsh criticism from both the Transport Ministry and airline companies.

Airline company officials described the report as "out of focus," insisting that the present air fare system is internationally accepted.

Currently, international air fares are set by IATA through negotiations among IATA member airlines, although they are subject to approval by each government.

"This cartel is different from conventional cartels," said an official at the Transport Ministry.

"If this system is scrapped, there would be a serious panic," the official warned.

An official at Japan Airlines Co. denied that IATA controls international air fares, saying that all air fares are subject to government approval.

"It's a misunderstanding to think air fares are controlled by IATA," the official said.

North Korea

Kim Chong-il Named 'Marshal of the DPRK'

SK2004212992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Decision by the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, WPK; the WPK Central Military Commission; the DPRK Defense Committee; and the DPRK Central People's Committee on 20 April—read by announcer]

[Text] We will carry the decision by the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, the WPK Central Military Commission, the DPRK Defense Committee, and the DPRK Central People's Committee to give Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], the title of marshal [wonsu] of the DPRK:

The decision is made to give Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the KPA, the title of marshal of the DPRK.

[Signed] The WPK Central Committee
The WPK Central Military Commission
The DPRK Defense Committee
The DPRK Central People's Committee

[Dated] 20 April 1992

O Chin-u Named Marshal

SK2004214092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2105 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Decision by the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, WPK; the WPK Central Military Commission; the DPRK Defense Committee; and the DPRK Central People's Committee on 20 April—read by announcer]

[Text] The decision is made to give Comrade O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces, the title of marshal [wonsu] of the DPRK.

[Signed] The WPK Central Committee
The WPK Central Military Commission
The DPRK Defense Committee
The DPRK Central People's Committee

[Dated] 20 April 1992

Eight Vice Marshals Named

SK2004215792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2106 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Decision by the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, WPK; the WPK Central Military Commission; the DPRK Defense Committee; and the DPRK Central People's Committee on 20 April—read by announcer]

[Text] The decision has been made to give the title of vice marshal [chasu] of the Korean People's Army to the following comrades:

1. Choe Kwang.
2. Yi Ul-sol.
3. Chu To-il.
4. Choe In-tok.
5. Paek Hak-nim.
6. Yi Tu-ik.
7. Kim Pong-yul.
8. Kim Kwang-chin.

[Signed] The WPK Central Committee
The WPK Central Military Commission
The DPRK Defense Committee
The DPRK Central People's Committee

[Dated] 20 April 1992

'Anti-U.S. Cause for Independence' Urged

SK2104040892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 19 Apr 92

[NODONG SINMUN 19 April editorial: "Anti-U.S. Cause for Independence and Reunification Will Certainly Be Realized"]

[Text] With the implementation of the historic North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, a struggle to open a road toward the country's peace and reunification is being vigorously waged in the North, the South, and overseas. It is under such these circumstances that we mark the 32d anniversary of the 19 April uprising.

The April people's uprising, which was triggered by the Masan citizens opposition to the 15 March election rigging, was an explosion of accumulated grudges and indignation against the colonial fascist rule by the U.S. imperialists and their puppets. It was also a mass anti-U.S. and antifascist resistance struggle involving millions.

Without yielding, even in the warlike atmosphere under martial law, the masses pressed on to the fascist dictator's citadel like surging waves and in the end overthrew the Syngman Rhee puppet government which had long been a stooge of the U.S. imperialists. This was the first victory of the South Korean people in the struggle for freedom and democracy, an historic event which is noteworthy of their anti-imperialist and antifascist struggle.

The April people's uprising demonstrated the South Korean people's heroic spirit to the entire world, showing clearly that the popular masses could defeat any enemy and win a glorious victory if they rise up against the oppressors by uniting their strength.

The heroic uprising dealt a hard blow to the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and opened a new turning point in the anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle of the South Korean youth, students, and people. After the uprising, the mass movement in South Korea grew stronger and rapidly developed into the struggle for independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

However, the desire of the resistance fighters for new politics and a new life has not yet been realized, 32 years after the 19 April uprising. This is due completely to the U.S. imperialists' policy of occupation of South Korea and their vicious colonial rule.

Since the spirit of anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle and the spirit for peaceful reunification grew in South Korea with the April popular uprising, the U.S. imperialists brutally repressed the people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification, while implementing a more atrocious military fascist dictatorial rule.

When the struggle of the South Korean youth, students, and people became fierce and the ruling crisis intensified, the U.S. imperialists maintained the colonial fascist ruling system by replacing the fascist dictators through political and military interference and conspiracy.

Enforcing the ruthless military fascist rule to continuously seize South Korea as their colonial military base, even today the U.S. imperialists are accelerating aggression and war manuevers and tenaciously blocking peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea.

An urgent supreme national task that should not be put off any longer is to end the almost half-century U.S. imperialists colonial rule of South Korea, to establish the right to the nation's independence nationwide, and to realize the country's reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

The implementation of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation, and Exchange between the North and the South and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is an epochal event and a milestone in the country's peace and reunification.

The historic North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, which recently became effective, are a nation's common success attained in the struggle to carry through the three-point principles for national reunification. These are also a historic victory for the national ideal and serve as a turning point in establishing national sovereignty through the united strength of the nation.

A main obstacle to solving the issue of national reunification independently by the North and the South is the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and their attempts to turn it into a nuclear base. Even today, when the North and the South pledged reconciliation and nonaggression and effectuated the joint denuclearization declaration, the United States is trying to maintain its aggression forces in South Korea, is not discarding its policy of strength against our Republic, and is continuing the aggression and war maneuvers.

The U.S. imperialists coaxed the South Korean authorities to sign the Wartime Host Nation Agreement against us. Clamoring about a nonexistent threat, they help up even a nominal U.S. troop reduction and prepared a 120-day war scenario. Each day they stage a war commotion of northward aggression throughout South Korea.

The United States, not mentioning one word about withdrawing 1,000-odd nuclear weapons it deployed in South Korea, raved about our nonexistent secret nuclear plan and is threatening us.

This shows that the United States, although it pretends that it welcomes the North-South agreement, actually frantically opposes Korea's peace and reunification.

The United States should discard its anachronistic way of thinking—treating the Korean issue from a position of power and with the outdated outlook of the Cold War—and should stop aggression and interference in South Korea. It should immediately withdraw its aggressive troops and lethal weapons from South Korea.

With adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement and denuclearization declaration, we took the precious first step toward independent reunification of the nation. In order to link this step with tomorrow's reunification, we should halt the policy of reliance on outside forces and of anticommunist confrontation which has been persistently pursued by the South Korean authorities.

Though the North-South agreement and joint declaration have been put into force, the South Korean authorities have still not given up their flunkeyist bad habit of relying on the United States. Begging permanent occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces, they dragged much war materiel and equipment into South Korea from the United States and continuously staged reckless military commotions against us with U.S. troops. Thus, they threw cold water on the fellow countrymen's aspirations for reunification and cast dark shadows on the implementation of the agreement.

Following U.S. nuclear war provocation maneuvers, the South Korean authorities hid U.S. nuclear weapons in secret nuclear storehouses. They provoked us by raising our nonexistent nuclear development and openly raved that they will withhold implementation of the North-South agreement. In addition, they came to subcommittees of the North-South high-level talks, formed in accordance with the North-South agreement, empty-handed, without any plan on adopting supplementary agreements and raised obstacles to discussions of the issues. They are thus attempting to delay and suspend the implementation of the agreement.

The South Korean authorities are still maintaining such evil antireunification laws as the National Security Law which defined certain people as enemies. The have not made any move to release the reunification envoys who visited the North but continue to oppress the patriotic people aspiring to reunification.

In doing this, the South Korean authorities run completely counter to the North-South agreement. These actions betray us and challenge the national aspiration to reunification.

If the South Korean authorities truly have the will to implement the North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, they should discard reliance on outside forces and stand on the position of independence. By responding to our active peace efforts, the South Korean authorities should take practical steps to guarantee the nation's peace and should act decisively to force the U.S. troops and U.S. military bases to withdraw from South Korea.

At the same time, they should stop repressing the patriotic youth, students, and people who are waging the anti-U.S. struggle for independence against outside forces and should abolish all barriers of ideology and systems that hinder national unity, including the National Security Law. Thus, they should release those who visited the North and patriotic reunification figures whom they illegally imprisoned.

As long as the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces remain in South Korea and continue their interference, neither independence for South Korean society nor national reunification can be realized.

The South Korean youth, students, and people should wage the anti-U.S. struggle for independence more vigorously in order to crush the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and to establish the national sovereignty, which is being infringed upon.

The North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, which were adopted and became effective recently, do not belong only to the authorities of both sides but are a common national gain won in the course of struggle to embody the three principles of national reunification for independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

Through a common struggle, all the Korean people in the North, the South, and overseas should stop outside forces from hindering the implementation of the North-South agreement and the criminal maneuvers of the splittist forces, who are scheming to use the agreement as a way to maintain power. Thus, we should open a decisive phase for national reunification based on the strength of the driving force of the nation.

Our people are advancing by upholding the program of national reunification elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and lodestar of national reunification, and by following the leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the guiding star of reunification. In firm unity with all forces at home and abroad, we will achieve national reunification without fail.

Let us all vigorously fight to expedite the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the republic and the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation by holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem and by following the wise leadership of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

PRC Daily Cited on Yang Shangkun's Visit

SK2004123192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Beijing April 18 (KCNA)—Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY April 18 published an editorial hailing the successful Korean visit of President Yang Shangkun.

The paper said:

President Yang Shangkun participated in the celebrations of the Korean people on the 80th birthday of President Kim Il-song and conveyed to him cordial regards and warm congratulations of the Chinese leaders. Recalling the talks held between President Kim Il-song and President Yang Shangkun, the paper said the talks made a new contribution to strengthening the traditional friendship and friendly and cooperative relations between the Chinese and Korean peoples.

It continued:

The industrious and resourceful Korean people under the leadership of the great leader of the Korean people President Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea are advancing unswervingly along the road of socialism and have registered enormous achievements in fulfilling the cause of socialist revolution and construction by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle.

Korea is pursuing a foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship and has made a major contribution to the defence of peace in Asia and the world by striving to develop friendly relations with peoples of many countries through its brisk diplomatic activities.

The Chinese people rejoice at the achievements made by the Korean people and wholeheartedly wish them greater success in the future.

The Chinese party and government will continue to make efforts as in the past to further develop the friendly relations between the two countries and ease the tension on the Korean peninsula, in support of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

PRC Delegation Arrives for Army Aniversary

SK2104051092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—A friendship delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army headed by Lieutenant General Zhang Wannian, commander of the Jinan Military Area, arrived here by air Monday to participate in the celebrations of the 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

CIS Military Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

SK2004150392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] A military delegation of the general headquarters of joint armed forces of the CIS headed by Soviet Marshal Viktor Georgiyevich Kulikov, adviser to the general headquarters, today arrived in Pyongyang by airplane to attend the congratulatory events marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

At the airport, generals and officers of the KPA including General Kim Kwang-chin greeted the delegation.

A female soldier presented a bouquet to the delegation head.

News Conference Denounces Nuclear Pressure

SK2004225592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 000 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] A news conference was held at the DPRK Embassy in Iran regarding the deliberation and ratification of the nuclear safeguards agreement at the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

The DPRK ambassador spoke at the news conference. He stressed that the SPA deliberated and approved the nuclear safeguards agreement, as we had already declared. This is indisputable proof of our consistent position, demonstrating that we mean what we say.

He denounced some countries, including the United States, for putting unjust pressure on us by spreading rumors about our nonexistent nuclear weapons development at a time when the nuclear issue is being resolved smoothly. He said that these maneuvers not only raise an artificial obstacle to our acceptance of nuclear inspection but also result from an insidious political purpose to justify the perpetual stationing of the U.S. Forces in South Korea. Then he answered the reporters' questions.

The DPRK Embassy in Jordan also held a news conference.

Japanese Movement for Early Normalization 'Brisk'

SK2104050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—The movement urging an early normalisation of the Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations is brisk in all parts of Japan.

Resolutions and recommendations have been adopted at local autonomous assemblies of Japan since the publication of the three- party joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and the Japan Social-Democratic Party. In December last year, they numbered 1,921 including Tokyo metropolis, Hokkaido and 36 prefectures of Japan, which involve people accounting for 94 percent of the Japanese population. In March this year, the autonomous assemblies which adopted resolutions and recommendations reached 2,064 in Tokyo metropolis, Hokkaido and 37 prefectures including Fukushima, Gifu and Toyama prefectures.

Many branches of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship and prefectural citizens councils for the promotion of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations have been organised. Assemblymen's leagues for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship were organised in Aomori Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Gifu city, Miyagi Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture and prefectural citizens councils for the promotion of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations in Niigata, Saitama, Hyogo, Oita and Aichi Prefectures.

Meetings of prefectural people have been organised on a wide scale to demand the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

Last year, meetings, symposia and lectures were held among the Japanese people on more than 2,500 occasions, signature and other campaigns were conducted and representatives of various strata constantly presented requests to the government.

South Korea

Consultations With U.S. Set for May

SK2004061592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0431 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States will hold a vice minister-level consultation to seek joint measures to encourage North Korea to accept international inspection of its nuclear capability at an early date, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Arnold Kanter will come to Seoul in mid-May to hold talks with Vice Foreign Minister No Chang-hui and other Korean officials, the official said.

He said upgrading the level of U.S.-North Korean contact would be one of the key issues discussed during Kanter's stay.

Kanter will stop in Tokyo prior to his visit to Seoul and will discuss with Japanese officials the seventh round of Japan-North Korean normalization talks, slated for some time after mid-May, and the joint Seoul-Tokyo-Washington position regarding North Korea's nuclear development.

Kanter represented the U.S. Government in the first North Korea- U.S. high-level contact in New York on Jan. 22. North Korea was then represented by Kim Yong-sun, secretary for international affairs of the ruling Workers'(Communist) Party.

U.S. Direct Trade With DPRK Viewed

SK2104043592 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 17 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] The United States and North Korea have maintained direct trade relations since 1988. Special machinery, which can be used for strategic purposes, has been traded between the United States and North Korea. According to a report on the current status of U.S.-North Korean trade, which concerned authorities obtained on 16 April, the United States has exported goods worth $213,000, including fruit, cosmetics, and machinery, to North Korea during the past four years. The United States has imported goods worth $533,000 from North Korea. Thus, the direct trade volume between the two countries totals $746,000, involving approximately 20 kinds of goods. This trade volume, directly exchanged between the two countries, was officially confirmed by the U.S. statistics agency. Thus, if wheat and other products, traded between the two countries through third countries, are added to the direct trade amount, the trade volume between the two countries is expected to reach several hundred million dollars.

The United States, which has classified North Korea as a non-trade foreign country, has had full-fledged trade with North Korea since 1988 when rapid progress was made in ROK-Soviet relations. Because special machinery, which can be used for strategic purposes, is included among the goods the United States has exported to North Korea, it is expected that a considerable stir will be created in ROK-U.S. relations. The amount that the United States exported to North Korea reached $65,000 in 1988; $16,000 in 1989; $32,000 in 1990; and $100,000 in 1991.

As for the kinds of goods exported to North Korea, fruit and vegetables totaled $30,000; cosmetics, $4,000; wood products, $18,000; ceramics, $22,000; medical instruments, such as X-ray machines, $12,000; and machinery, $89,000.

Minister Says 'Understanding' Reached With PRC

SK2104104792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1028 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Tuesday Korea and China have reached a "common understanding " on the need to normalize their bilateral relations.

While meeting with reporters upon his return from a visit to China and Mongolia, Minister Yi said, however, that this is no stage to discuss the concrete time of diplomatic normalization between the two countries.

"No such discussions were made during my meetings with Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen," Yi said.

The minister visited China and Mongolia for 11 days. In China, he attended the 48th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Commenting on Li Peng's remarks on the need of "high-level contacts" between South Korea and China, Minister Yi said, "he was simply discussing the necessity of developing bilateral relations from the aspects of generality."

Asked about the possibility of diplomatic normalization within the year, Yi said, "this is no stage to discuss the time and method of normalization."

He said he had no plan to set in motion a separate diplomatic channel to negotiate normalized relations with China.

But, he conceded he discussed with Qian Qichen the issue of normalizing Seoul-Beijing relations, adding he would meet Qian again during the fourth Bangkok Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Meeting and the 47th U.N. General Assembly in September.

Statistics Show 1991 Trade Deficit With China

SK2104065392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0423 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade deficit with China last year was the largest among China's ten leading trading countries other than Hong Kong, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said Tuesday.

According to statistics for 1991 compiled by China's Customs Office, the United States, Germany, Taiwan, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Italy and France registered a trade surplus with China while Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Japan suffered a deficit, the Ministry said.

Hong Kong, which serves as "the conduit" for China's trade with third countries, recorded a trade deficit of 14.6 billion U.S. dollars, followed by South Korea, 1.2 billion dollars, Singapore, 900 million dollars, and Japan, 300 million dollars, the Ministry said.

The two-way trade between China and South Korea totaled 3.2 billion dollars or the seventh among the 10 top trading partners. China's imports of South Korean goods amounted to only 1 billion dollars, or the smallest among the ten countries, while its exports to South Korea totaled 2.2 billion dollars or the fifth among the ten.

In contrast, Taiwan recorded the largest trade surplus with 3 billion dollars, followed by the United States, 1.8 billion dollars, France, 900 million dollars, Germany and Italy, 600 million dollars each, and the CIS, 300 million dollars.

China imported 17.5 billion dollars worth of goods from Hong Kong, 10 billion dollars from Japan, 8 billion dollars from the United States, 3.6 billion dollars from Taiwan, 3 billion dollars from Germany, 2.1 billion dollars from the CIS, 1.6 billion dollars from France, 1.5

billion dollars from Italy, 1.1 billion dollars from Singapore, and 1 billion dollars from South Korea.

China's exports amounted to 32.1 billion dollars to Hong Kong, 10.3 billion dollars to Japan, 6.2 billion dollars to the United States, 2.4 billion dollars to Germany, 2.2 billion dollars to South Korea, 2 billion dollars to Singapore, 1.8 billion dollars to the CIS.

Exchange of Liaison Offices With SRV Viewed

SK2104064292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Opening Seoul-Hanoi Ties"]

[Text] South Korea's agreement with Vietnam to set up liaison offices in each other's capitals, although short of establishing full diplomatic relations, is a tangible step in the reconciliatory trend that has supplanted the Cold War. It followed Seoul's positive diplomatic overtures, launched a few years ago to improve relations with as many socialist nations as possible. And it carries additional significance. Only two decades ago, the two countries fought against each other in a war that was characteristic of Cold War hostilities.

Now, the once hostile countries, as indicated in the accord, are in general agreement on the need for the normalization of relations. Seoul has so far established diplomatic ties with all the East European countries, the old Soviet Union and Mongolia. It also has trade office relations with Beijing.

Through their liaison office, South Korea and Vietnam will conduct consular affairs and support economic cooperation between businessmen. Seoul is preparing to open its office in Hanoi in July. Hanoi is also said to be seeking an early establishment of its office in Seoul.

Once opened, these de facto diplomatic missions are certain to expedite the exchanges, including commercial transactions, that have been taking place between the two countries since the demise of the Cold War. Bilateral trade totaled $140 million in 1990 and increased to $220 million last year. Two years ago, 1,870 South Koreans and Vietnamese visited each other's countries, with the figure rising to 5,500 last year. Some Korean firms have already invested in Vietnam for the production of textiles, garments and metal products.

The planned liaison offices will play an active role in laying the institutional groundwork for spurring economic cooperation, through trade, investment guarantee, avoidance of double taxation and aviation accords. The expansion of cultural and scientific exchanges will undoubtedly follow suit.

Seoul and Hanoi will have much to benefit from broadened relations. Such reciprocity will also be the case with Seoul's possible relations with other countries of former Indochina—Laos and Cambodia.

The projected liaison missions will contribute greatly to Seoul and Hanoi's desire to promote mutual benefits in substance. Establishing full diplomatic ties, of course, will help. Yet, this should not necessarily demand a rash approach in setting up full diplomatic ties with Hanoi. In fact, the parties concerned are weighing the wisdom of how best to serve their interests in a changing post-Cold War order. Seoul can steadily upgrade its relations with Hanoi to its own advantage.

Offices Likely To Boost Bilateral Trade

SK2104065492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Korea's agreement to exchange liaison offices with Vietnam caps off non-political ties between the two countries in recent years. And the latest move is likely to further boost collaboration particularly in the economic field, according to Korean industrial analysts.

The government yesterday announced that a Korean liaison office will open in Hanoi in July and the Vietnamese government will follow suit later.

The planned exchange of liaison offices is short of the establishment of formal diplomatic ties but represents state-to- state relations higher than exchange of trade offices such as the one between Seoul and Beijing.

The agreement is construed as part of efforts to wipe out the vestige of the Cold War era, political observers say. Korea severed its diplomatic ties with Vietnam following the end of the Vietnam War which led to the collapse of anti-Communist South Vietnam in 1975. Koreans fought alongside with U.S. troops in the war.

Economic sanctions that the United States has imposed against Vietnam have been a stumbling block for Korea's efforts to establish full-fledged diplomatic ties.

Signs of thawing the Cold War between the United States and Vietnam began to appear last April when Washington outlined a process for normalizing ties with Hanoi after the signing of the Cambodia peace treaty. The United States insists on the solution of issues, including the fate of soldiers missing in action during the war, before establishing diplomatic ties.

It was in December 1987 that the Vietnamese parliament approved a law aimed at luring foreign investment to boost its flagging economy.

A few Korean firms such as Kolon International and Samsung moved into Vietnam for the first time after the severance of diplomatic ties. Economic ties between Seoul and Hanoi have been brisk in the recent years.

Figures released by authorities showed that trade increased from $87 million in 1989 to $150 million in 1990 and further to $240 million in 1991. Korea exports such products as textiles and fertilizers, while importing anthracite coal and agricultural products, among others.

Early this year, the Korean government for the first time gave the green light to Hanjoo Corp. to set up a $390,000 joint-venture textile firm in Hanoi.

Though the amount of investment is limited to less than $2 million, two more firms were allowed to make investments in Vietnam. Pohang Iron and Steel Co. has spent $1.95 million setting up a firm to produce prefabricated metal products with Vietnam's Southern Steel Union.

The number of Korean firms that have set up representative offices or branches in Vietnam has now risen to 12, including subsidiaries of large conglomerates such as Samsung, Hyundai and Daewoo.

Eight firms have been rushing to invest in Vietnam to take advantage of cheaper labor and rich natural resources in order to promote the cotton, synthetic fiber and garment industries.

A Korean delegation visited Hanoi from March 26 to April 6 and signed a memorandum of understanding on joint development of mines and related areas.

Some Korean smali- and middle-sized firms are involved in investment in such industries as garments, and they import raw materials and process them using cheaper labor before exporting, said Yi Yun-sok, an official of the Center for Northern Area, an affiliate of the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy. Conglomerates such as Samsung are engaged in barter trade, he said.

The official said more Korean firms are expected to look to Vietnam instead of Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries to make investments in labor-intensive fields such as the garment industry as a result of the planned exchange of liaison offices between Seoul and Hanoi.

Conditions favorable to foreign investors are well-educated workers and cheaper labor cost, he noted.

The Vietnamese labor law stipulates that the monthly minimum wage for unskilled workers is $50, two or three times lower than that in Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. Reports say the government is considering lowering the minimum wage.

In the long-term prospective, large construction projects such as roads and ports are one of promising areas for Korean firms. But to get into such projects will not be undertaken without loans from international financial organizations, which require the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam, Yi said.

Korean experts on Vietnam agree that Vietnam has unfavorable investment conditions such as shortage of foreign exchange.

ROK, Japan Officials Discuss Diplomatic Issues

SK2104044192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0409 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean and Japanese officials met Tuesday to explain their latest political developments including South Korea-China and Japan-North Korea relations.

Kim Sok-u, director-general of the South Korean Foreign Ministry Asian Affairs Bureau, briefed Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada on the results of South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok's China visit, officials said.

South Korea and China lack diplomatic ties, and Yi is the first South Korean foreign minister to go to China. He was in Beijing last week to attend the 48th session of the U.N. Economic and Scoial Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Yi met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Premier Li Peng for talks that sources say were on diplomatic normalization.

Kim, who accompanied Yi on China trip, briefed Owada on these talks and also discussed pending Seoul-Tokyo issues such as the economic action plan to be prepared by June to rectify the growing trade imbalance in Japan's favor.

Owada, in turn, explained about Japanese officials' recent visit to Pyongyang for North Korean leader Kim Il-song's 80th brithday celebration, the officials said.

Kim and Owada also talked about the upcoming seventh Pyongyang- Tokyo talks on diplomatic normalization scheduled from May 13, they said.

Japanese officials reaffirmed Tokyo's position that the diplomatic talks with Pyongyang will not progress without resolving North Korea's nuclear problem first, according to the officials.

The foreign minister will return to Seoul Tuesday evening via Hong Kong.

Russian Non-Guarantee Threatens Credits for CIS

SK2104103992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0946 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—Chances for South Korea to resume furnishing credits to the Commonwealth of Independent States have become uncertain again as the Russian Federation, stepping back from its earlier pledge, lately expressed reluctance to guarantee the repayment of the credits already given to the former Soviet Union.

A senior official of the Finance Ministry said Tuesday Russian officials indirectly informed the South Korean Government through a diplomatic channel that since the 1-billion-dollar cash loan was for the whole of the former Soviet Union, it would be hard for their government alone to guarantee its repayment.

The ministry official said that since the leading republic of the CIS was reluctant to guarantee repayment, the government would withhold the release of the remainder of the promised credits until they expressly offer a guarantee.

A while ago, Alexandr Shokhin, the then deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, told Ambassador to Moscow Hong Sun-yong that if Korea handed 75 percent of the remainder of the credits set for the CIS to Russia, his government would guarantee its repayment along with that of those already given to the former Soviet Union.

So far, Korea provided 1 billion dollars in cash credits to the former Soviet Union on two occasions and authorized the release of tied loans totaling 473 million dollars for use in purchasing consumption goods. They are part of the 3-billion-dollar loan South Korea promised to the former Soviet Union last year.

Russian News Agency Head Views Issues, Ties

SK1704160692 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 16 Apr 92 p 2

[Report on conversation between Vitaliy Ignatenko, president of ITAR-TASS, with members of the Korean Newspaper Editor's Association on 15 April, by reporter Yo Hyon-ho]

[Text] At a breakfast meeting arranged by the Korean Newspaper Editors' Association on the morning of 15 April, Vitaliy Ignatenko, president of ITAR-TASS who is now on a visit to Korea, said: With ideological elements discarded from Russia's foreign policy, its relations with North Korea are now taking shape anew on practical terms. Russia's interest in the ROK is far greater, beyond comparison, than its interest in North Korea.

President Ignatenko, who served as spokesman for a year for the former Soviet President Gorbachev beginning in 1990, said that by signing a union agreement with the CIS republics last 31 March, the Russian Federation was able to keep itself from collapsing.

Commenting on the economic situation in the CIS republics, he said that they are expected to suffer from economic difficulties until the end of this year, with national production dropping by 9 percent in 1991 and a considerable number of state enterprises running deficits. He then expressed his optimistic view that the economic situation will stabilize by 1993.

Following is the gist of questions and answers:

[HANGYORE SINMU] Is the current situation in Russia stable enough to allow the Korean Government or business firms to invest without fear?

[Ignatenko] We view the privatization of industries, agricultural reform, a conversion of the munitions industry into civilian industry, disarmament, an invitation to foreign investors, legislation of laws designed to expedite the establishment of joint ventures, and an appropriate use of loans from foreign countries as the keys to building a perfect market-oriented economy.

[HANGYORE SINMU] Are there political prisoners in Russia?

[Ignatenko] Following the release of nine two months ago, we have none at present. Also, concentration camps for political prisoners no longer exist.

[HANGYORE SINMU] Many among our people believe that the Soviet Union, the country that inflicted injury on Korea during the Korean war, is now begging for assistance from Korea, the former victim, in its diplomacy. Do you not think it is necessary for your government to clearly account for the shooting down of a Korean Air [KAL] passenger plane and compensate for the victims?

[Ignatenko] The Korean war and the shooting down of the KAL passenger plane were very tragic incidents. However, they were products of the cold war era and cannot be considered apart from the situation that prevailed at that time.

[HANGYORE SINMU] Progress in Korean-Chinese relations seems to have quickened and the establishment of diplomatic relations is in sight. What is Russia's stand on this?

[Ignatenko] It is very fortunate that neighboring countries in this region are maintaining friendly relations among themselves, and I welcome the improving relations between the two countries.

[HANGYORE SINMU] Is not TASS replacing the former KGB as the gatherer of intelligence? The Russian prosecutor's office is reported to have sent a subpoena to Gorbachev on charges of misappropriating Communist Party funds during his tenure. Is there any possibility of his political comeback?

[Ignatenko] Under no circumstances will TASS reporters work for any other agency. Both Gorbachev and the prosecutor's office are satisfied with his testimony. As far as I know, Gorbachev has never left the front line of politics, and the role he now plays is considerably helpful to the state.

Beginning his career as a reporter at KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA after graduating from Moscow University, where he had majored in journalism, Ignatenko served as its editor-in-chief, as deputy editor-in-chief of TASS, and later as editor-in-chief of NOVOYE VREMYA. He then served as deputy director of the domestic intelligence bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and spokesman for the presidential office.

N-S Nuclear Talks Fail To Make Progress

SK2104101992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1003 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—South and North Korean delegates met at Panmunjom Tuesday to work out regulations on proposed inter-Korean nuclear inspections, but no headway was made as the two sides refused to budge from their respective positions.

The third meeting of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) failed even to agree on the date of the next commission meeting.

Pan Ki-mun, special assistant to the foreign minister, who acted as the South's vice chairman of the joint commission, said the South wanted an immediate start of negotiations for the drafting of inspection regulations.

The South stressed that the two sides should move fast since there was not much time left before the agreed-on deadline of May 19, Pan said.

However, the North insisted on adopting a separate agreement to ensure the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration before discussing the issue of preparing inspection regulations.

At the meeting, the South also suggested that the same number of suspected nuclear sites in both sides should be subject to mutual inspections under the principle of reciprocity.

But, the North asserted that in return for opening their Yongbyon nuclear facilities, all the U.S. military installations in the South should be inspected under the "principle of simultaneous dispelling of misgivings."

As for the date of the next commission meeting, the South suggested April 24 or 28 while the North wanted to make it May 12 reasoning that they would be tied up preparing for the seventh prime ministers meeting.

In the end, the two sides agreed to discuss it further during the May 5 prime ministers meeting, Pan said.

Unification Board Views Kim Chong-il's New Title

SK2104031992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0155 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-il's taking the "marshal" title is seen as part of the power transfer from his father, North Korean President Kim Il-song, to the junior Kim with the son given virtual control of the North Korean armed forces, a National Unification Board official said Tuesday.

"It was anticipated that Kim Chong-il would be given a marshal title since his father took the title of 'grand marshal'" on April 13," said the official, who declined to be identified. "The junior Kim seems to have further strengthened his position as the number two man with his control of the party, the administration and the armed forces."

He said Defense Minister O Chin-u's promotion from vice marshal to marshal in tandem with Kim Chong-il was apparently intended to blur the ongoing hereditary transfer of power as well as paying homage to O.

"Conferring vice marshal title to eight generals including Choe Kwang, chief of general staff of North Korean People's Army, is regarded as the last courtesy to them as they are supposed to retire soon," the official said.

Teachers Unions Lodge Complaint With ILO

SK1704061992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0518 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Two world teachers' organizations have lodged a complaint against the South Korean Government with the International Labor Organization (ILO), charging that it has flagrantly violated ILO rules on freedom of association.

The International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions (IFFTU) and the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP) filed a joint petition on April 13 against the Korean Government for dismissing teachers belonging to the outlawed Korean Teachers and Educational Workers' Union (Chunkyojo), Chunkyojo said Friday.

The complaint says that the dismissal of employees because of their membership in a trade union is a clear violation of ILO conventions 87 and 98, and calls for the government to reinstate the dismissed teachers and to set up normal labor relations with Chunkyojo.

"The complaint proves that the government's persecution of Chynkyojo was a distinct breach of international practices and the basic ideas of ILO," a Chunkyojo official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Chunkyojo would cooperate closely with WCOTP, IFFTU and ILO to win recognition.

Chunkyojo was established in May 1989 and some 1,500 teachers have been fired from national, municipal or private schools for being members. The government still refuses to recognize the teachers union.

Security Stepped Up at Seoul's Kimpo Airport

SK2104065692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—Jitters about Arab terrorist attacks on Israeli aircraft carrying Easter pilgrims have put South Korean security authorities on an around-the-clock alert, security sources at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport said Tuesday.

A special chartered plane of the Israeli airline El Al will land at the airport Thursday, carrying 220 South Korean Christians home after a pilgrimage to Israel. The plane will take to Israel groups of 217 and 210 other pilgrims on May 4 and May 6.

Rumors had it that some Arab terrorists were planning an attack on the Israeli aircraft, and a special airport security meeting was held on April 10 to work out countermeasures, the sources said.

"The authorities concerned have reached the conclusion that it is highly likely that terrorists from some Arab countries which were discontented with the United Nations sanctions against Libya may try to do harm to Israeli aircraft," one of the sources said.

Entry screening would be strengthened for travellers from the Middle East, and surveillance would be stepped up on aircraft and airport neighborhood, they said.

The April 10 meeting was attended by airport police and officers from the Agency for National Security Planning and the Defense Security Command, they said.

"Passengers of domestic airlines will also be asked to carry their resident registration cards and cars entering the airport will be checked. Eleven Israeli counter-terror agents will work together with us, closely searching the aircraft," one source said.

During the Easter period last year, some 6,000 Koreans visited sacred sites in Israel via Europe.

Yi Chong-chan To Challenge Kim Yong-sam

SK1804025592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Rep. Yi Chong-chan was singled out as the contender against executive chairman Kim Yong-sam [YS] for the May 19 presidential nomination convention of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

The dramatic accord was reached in a 10-hour-long marathon meeting of the seven-man council arraying against the executive chairman.

After the meeting held at Lotte Hotel, Rep. Choe Chae-uk announced that co-chairman Pak Tae-chun and Rep. Yi Han-tong gave up their bid for the presidential candidacy to support Rep. Yi Chong- chan.

Yi is expected to declare his candidacy in the nomination race today in a press meeting.

The council of seven anti-YS figures with high profiles in the ruling party was attended by co-chairman Pak, Yi Chong-chan, Yi Han- tong, Pak Chol-un, Pak Chun-pyong, Sim Myong-po and Yang Chang-sik.

Their discussion focused on discouraging Rep. Yi Han-tong into giving up his bid for the presidential candidacy and strategies to defeat Kim.

Earlier, Yi Han-tong pledged that he would also run if Rep. Yi Chong-chan would run.

In a hairpin turn of events, Pak agreed to quit the race.

Reliable party sources revealed that Pak was believed to be under heavy "external pressure" to stay away from the nomination convention. They, however, were reluctant to speculate on who is the source of the pressure.

Pak, who manages the party's largest Minjong faction headed by President No Tae-u, reportedly had telephone conversations with No and Yi Sang-yon, director of the Agency for National Security Planning, Thursday.

Co-chairman Pak was absent from a tea break with executive chairman Kim Yong-sam and another co-chairman Kim Chong-pil yesterday morning even though he was at party headquarters.

Pak, however, attended a meeting of the Executive Council, the top decision-making body, and exchanged brief pleasantries with executive chairman Kim in a sullen manner.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam said yesterday he supports the democratic principle of a free and open competition demanded by Pak.

Earlier, Kim's followers had stubbornly insisted on "limited competition," or the exclusion of Pak from the race.

Kim Yong-sam told reporters, "As a politician, I have often risked my life for democracy. I have faith in free and open competition."

He made the remarks meeting newsmen at his house after his talks with President No Thursday.

Pak and Rep. Yi Chong-chan, rivals of Kim Yong-sam, had originally planned to go their own ways and declare their candidacy, probably today, if the seven-man council failed to field a single candidate.

Pak's aides said yesterday that he had begun to consider "sacrificing himself for the sake of the nation and the party."

Yi Chong-chan Profiled

SK1904054292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Apr 92 p 2

[From the "Figure in Focus" column: "Self-claimed Reformist Within Ruling Party"]

[Text] Yi Chong-chan, a military officer-turned politician, who will vie with Kim Yong-sam for the ruling party presidential nomination, is a self-claimed moderate reformist. While Yi served in major posts of the ruling party during the authoritarian rule of president Chon Tu-hwan, he often said that he adheres to a "principle of 51 percent."

He explains that a majority of 51 percent is sometimes stronger and more important than an absolute majority in democracy.

Yi sometimes acted as a moderate reformist within the ruling camp on the one hand and sought compromise with the opposition rather than the bold use of the majority force.

When the government planned to introduce a bill to establish "concentration camps" in a desperate effort to curb student demonstrations in 1985, he, then floor leader of the now-dissolved ruling Democratic Justice Party [DJP], was one of a few opponents in the ruling camp to the plan. The bill was shelved later. His action was regarded as a revolt against Chon who was racking

his brains over how to deal with violent demonstrations on campuses across the country.

He was instantly relieved of the post by Chon. Yi was also frequently at odds with Chang Se-tong, his classmate at the Korea Military Academy and director of the Agency for National Security Planning, who was keeping his hands in political affairs, enjoying absolute trust of Chon.

Yi's survival in the ruling camp was made possible by his strong powerbase in the Chongno district, a "showcase district," in which he was elected to the National Assembly for four consecutive times since 1981, observers said.

Yi turns 56 on April 29. He was born to an independence fighter in Shanghai, China, the center of the Korean independence movement against Japanese colonial rule. Yi attended a primary school until the third-year class in China and returned to Korea after national liberation in 1945.

His grandfather Yi Hwoe-yong founded the Shinhung Military Officers School in Manchuria and Yi Si-yong, younger brother of Yi Chong-chan's grandfather, served as vice president of the first government of the Republic of Korea founded in 1948.

Graduating from Kyonggi High School, he passed the entrance examinations for both the Korea Military Academy and Seoul National University but he chose the military academy after days of serious thought, according to his friends.

In the choice, he might have been affected by his grandfather who often told him during the childhood that Koreans lost their country to Japan because of lack of military power.

Following the May 16 military coup led by then Maj-Gen. Pak Chong-hui, Yi worked for the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), re-named later as the agency for National Security Planning (NSP). He retired as a major in 1971.

He then served as counsellor for three years from 1973 and later as minister at the Korean embassy in the United Kingdom.

After Chon came to power in 1980 through a military mutiny of Dec. 12, 1979 following the assassination of president Pak Chong- hui, Yi served as director of the office of planning and coordination of the NSP and played a key role in founding the ruling Democratic Justice Party led by Chon. In particular, he was a key architect of the party organization.

With the DJP ticket, he made a "brilliant debut" in politics by winning the parliamentary election in Chongno-Chung district in Seoul, the traditional powerbase of the opposition.

He served as floor leader of the DJP for more than six years since 1981 and as a member of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee.

Few people know that Yi was a military officer and served in a major post of the top government intelligence agency. How his such career [as published] will affect the presidential nomination race with Kim Yong-sam, the self-declared standard-bearer for a "genuine, civilian government," remains to be seen.

Kim Yong-sam Followers React

SK1904054192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Apr 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Song-pok]

[Text] The dramatic turn by the anti-Kim Yong-sam [YS] faction to single out Rep. Yi Chong-chan as the challenger to Kim for the presidential candidacy of the Democratic Liberal Party has prompted Kim's followers to show mixed reactions—relief as well as alertness.

They yesterday appeared to be relieved in that co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, who was designated by Kim as a "persona non grata," was excluded from the race.

But they were put on alert in that the anti-YS forces surprisingly succeeded to field a single contender against their boss.

Rep. Pak Kwan-yong, a lawmaker loyal to executive chairman Kim, commented, "Although Rep. Yi was singled out, he does not represent all members of the largest Minjong faction."

Rep. Pak added, "We think it easier to compete against Rep. Yi than co-chairman Pak."

However, Rep. Yi Ung-hui, a senior member of the Minjong faction who supports Kim Yong-sam, said, "We do not regard it simple for the anti-Kim faction to single out Rep. Yi Chong-chan. But we believe things will go smoothly."

A close aide to Kim admitted, "Frankly speaking, we did not think they would reach the dramatic accord but Reps. Yi Chong-chan and Yi Han-tong will run, splitting the support base of the faction arraying against executive chairman Kim."

A dominant view within the ruling party is that it will not be an easy game for executive chairman Kim to compete against Yi Chong- chan who was singled out by a seven-man council of anti-Kim figures.

But Yi Chong-chan faces a lingering question if he will enjoy unswerving support from the council members as they agreed Friday.

After a 10-hour-long marathon meeting of the council, Rep. Choe Chae-uk told reporters that Yi Chong-chan will neither hold party offices nor make a bid for the presidential candidacy in 1997.

His announcement was taken to mean that a discussion to share power among the council members, especially

co-chairman Pak and Yi Han-tong, was made as they quit the race at the eleventh hour to back Yi Chong-chan.

Accordingly, the council members will do their best to rally support behind Yi Chong-chan, some observers noted.

But a follower Kim Yong-sam said, "Yi Chong-chan has to overcome some hard sentiments against him by his rivals, including Yi Han- tong and Pak Chol-un."

As a matter of fact, Yi Chong-chan should beg for full support from the council members to persuade many middle-of-the-roaders behind him.

Now that the candidates for the party's ticket to the December presidential election have been tapped, the rival camps in the DLP scrambled to expand their support bases.

Yi Chong-chan yesterday made a courtesy call on co-chairman Pak Tae-chun at Pak's house and discussed strategies to defeat Kim Yong- sam with lawmakers loyal to Pak.

Meanwhile, some 20 senior lawmakers from the mini-stream faction who gathered under the banner of Kim Yong-sam yesterday held a meeting and decided to form a "suprapartisan committee" to back the executive chairman.

They plan to show off their force early this week, with about 100 supporters of Kim attending.

They believe that the key to a victory over Yi Chong-chan is how to successfully shake the Minjong faction and win the heart of another co-chairman Kim Chong-pil who leads the minor faction.

But Kim Chong-pil is taking an opportunistic attitude, having reportedly ordered his followers not to take a specific side yet.

Rep. Kim Yong-hwan, a top brain to co-chairman Kim, however, indicated yesterday that the minor Konghwa faction may back Yi Chong-chan if the people boost Yi.

The total of 237 heads of local chapters of the ruling party roughly break down to 96 supporters to executive chairman Kim, 50 anti-YS figures, some 60 middle-of-the-roaders and 29 followers of Kim Chong-pil.

In this context, Kim Yong-sam is eager to win President No Tae- u's heart in an apparent bid to lure those who stand in the middle of the road.

An aide to Kim revealed, "We are keeping our eyes peeled to find out if there is a sign of President No taking sides with Yi Chong- chan."

Tariffs Adjusted on Some Consumer Goods

SK1904030592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea will impose 11 percent to 100 percent adjustment tariffs on 20 agro-fishery and manufactured items from May because imports are rising too fast and hurting domestic industries.

The Finance Ministry said Saturday it had intended to launch the duties in the middle of April, but delayed for fear of disputes with Korea's trade partners.

Vice ministers from economy-related ministries would review the import management plan Tuesday and the tariffs, following approval by President No Tae-u, would take effect in early May, a ministry official said.

Under the plan, completed on April 4, a tariff of the legal maximum of 100 percent will be imposed on non-essential goods and a 40-percent surcharge will apply to imports that are increasing too fast and harming domestic industry. Excluded are items likely to provoke trade quarrels with foreign countries. [passage omitted]

Government To Join GATT Procurement Agreement

SK1804231492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Korea has mapped out a program for the opening of the government procurement market, which will be submitted to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) this month.

The Trade-Industry Ministry yesterday disclosed the program in order to join the government procurement agreement of the GATT.

With the submission of the program, Korea will negotiate with the present 20 signatory countries of the government procurement agreement to become a new member of the pact.

According to the program, Korea will open the government procurement market for projects to be carried out by the central administration, Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Inchon, Kwangju and some provincial administrations.

Korea will also open the market for projects to be undertaken by a limited number of state-invested enterprises including Korea Telecom, the Korea National Housing Corporation, the Korean National Railroad and the Korea Development Bank.

Among the current 20 signatories of the GATT's government procurement agreement are Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands.

Others are the United States, Japan, Canada, Austria, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.

The ministry said that in negotiations, they will spell out conditions which Korea should abide by to become a new signatory of the government procurement agreement which was implemented in 1981.

According to the conditions, Korea will be forbidden to discriminate against foreign enterprises in favor of domestic business concerns in its government procurement projects.

Korea will be obliged to guarantee fair competition in budding for such projects.

In case foreign enterprises are awarded those projects, Korea will be prohibited from imposing "offset" conditions on them such as the transfer of their technology and the use of Korean-made parts and components.

The ministry said that if Korea joins the GATT's government procurement agreement, domestic business will face fierce competition with their counterparts in the 20 member countries.

However, it said that they will also reap great benefits with their participation in government projects including construction and services to be carried out the 20 signatory countries.

Korea's government procurement market was estimated at 1,400 billion won last year.

In the meantime, commodity procurements by the governments of the 20 signatories amounted to more than $50 billion in 1989, the ministry said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Skills Training for SRV Refugees Said Possible

BK2104063692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0321 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By Abdul Rahman Sulaiman]

[Text] Hanoi, April 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has agreed to look into the possibility of providing skills training to the remaining Vietnamese boat people in the country before sending them home under the voluntary repatriation programme.

The go-ahead was given by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed during talks here Monday with his Vietnamese counterpart Vo Van Kiet following a specific request by the latter.

This was to enable the Vietnamese to secure jobs on their return to their country, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here.

There were, at present, about 11,000 Vietnamese boat people in the Sungai Besi holding camp in Kuala Lumpur, 70 percent of whom were not likely to be accepted for resettlement by third countries.

At the height of the boat people problem in the late 70's and early 80's, there were more than 100,000 Vietnamese boat people in Malaysia at any one time.

Abdullah said the leaders also pledged to do everything possible to enhance the bilateral relations in the future.

On the question of overlapping claims to the continental shelf, Abdullah said the two leaders agreed that negotiations at officials level should begin not only to resolve the problem but also to look into ways and means of jointly exploiting whatever resources were available in the disputed areas.

He added: "However, this only applies to areas where the overlapping claim involves the two countries.

"In areas where the claims also involved other countries, negotiations should be held with all parties involved."

Mahathir, here on a five-day official visit, earlier laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the house of Vietnam's founding father.

He also witnessed the signing of three agreements.

The agreement on post and telecommunications co-operation was signed on Malaysia's behalf by Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister S. Samy Vellu and an agreement on economic, scientific and technical co-operation by Abdullah.

The other pact, a memorandum of understanding on technical assistance for the Vietnamese rubber industry, was initialled on Malaysia's behalf by the secretary-general of the Primary Industries Ministry, Wong Kum Choon.

Police Detain 47 Chinese for Illegal Fishing

BK2004061592 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 11 Apr 92 p 5

[Text] Kuching, Friday—Marine Police detained 47 Chinese fishermen, including seven women, and confiscated 1 million ringgit worth of goods at the estuary of Miri River at 0200 yesterday.

Joseph Tawie, public relations officer of the State Police, said that they would be charged by the Fishery Department under Section 15 (1) (A) of the 1985 Fishery Act with illegal fishing in the country's territorial waters.

He said that the boat skipper could be fined for 1 million ringgit if convicted.

Official Expresses Hopes for Afghan Government

BK1804143092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Malaysia hopes developments in Afghanistan will now enable the formation of a stable and strong interim mojahedin government. The deputy foreign minister, Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, said Malaysia welcomed the transfer of power from the pro-communist regime of ousted president Najibollah to the mojahedin and hoped this development would end the decade-long civil war in the country.

Speaking to reporters after a Bukit Gantang UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Hari Raya ['Id-al Fitr] open house in Taiping, he said the mojahedin should cooperate and unite to facilitate the formation of a stable government through the auspices of the United Nations. He was commenting on the seizure of power in Afghanistan by the mojahedin and on Najibollah's arrest by pro-mojahedin forces. He said Malaysia hoped the mojahedin would accord Najibollah a fair trial. Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil said cooperation and unity among the seven mojahedin groups in Afghanistan were necessary to prevent further bloodshed.

On Malaysian Embassy staff in Libya, he said the ambassador would not be recalled as the situation in that country, now facing United Nations-imposed sanctions, was under control. He said because of the UN air blockades in Libya, Malaysian students intending to leave that country could use a land route to the nearest country and then take a flight. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

U.S. Senate MIA Delegation Arrives

BK2104065992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] A delegation of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs headed by Senator John Kerry arrived in Phnom Penh on the morning of 20 April for a one-day visit to Cambodia within the framework of the search for U.S. MIA remains.

During the visit, the team seeking the remains of U.S. soldiers missing in the Indochina war will hold talks with His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, prime minister; H.E. General Sin Song, minister of national security; and H.E. Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs. The delegation also will have an audience with His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk. It will go to Bangkok after ending its Cambodia visit on 21 April.

UN Chief Butrus Ghali Continues Official Visit

Necessary Tasks Described

BK1904071492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] According to reports, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali should be arriving in Phnom Penh on 18 April. The reports further say that the secretary general plans to hold talks with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] to discuss the implementation of the Paris agreement in the past and take additional measures to speed up the implementation of the Paris agreement in accordance with the agreement's essence and make it effective.

The Cambodian people would like to express joy and welcome the visit by the UN secretary general in Cambodia with the hope that the secretary general will further strive to promote correct implementation of the agreement in accordance with the real essence of the agreement both in the military and civilian aspects, namely:

1. Promote a quick deployment of the UN peacekeeping force in western Cambodia;

2. Push for disarming and dissolving 100 percent of Cambodian parties' Armed Forces;

3. Urge the SNC and UNTAC to take over all administrative duties in Cambodia in accordance with Chapter B, Annex 2 of the agreement.

All these are the immediate tasks the United Nations and the SNC have to quickly achieve simultaneously to avoid continued fighting among Armed Forces of the Vietnamese aggressors and Cambodians. This is also in order to create a neutral political atmosphere and respect for human rights and basic rights and freedom of the Cambodian people in Phnom Penh and in the provinces for organizing free, democratic, fair, and just elections in order to have a peaceful, sovereign Cambodia with the Cambodian people genuinely enjoying their right to self-determination.

Gives Arrival Address

BK2104090392 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1117 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 Apr (SPK)—Secretary General of the United Nations Butrus Butrus Ghali called on the Cambodian people to "unite and take up the challenge of peace" in his speech [words indistinct] on 18 April at Pochentong Airport for a three-day visit to Cambodia. Following are large excerpts of his address:

"My presence here is also to stress the importance the international community attaches to the strict implementation of the Paris agreement and the full realization of the mandate assigned to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

"The deployment of the transitional authority started with the arrival of my special representative on 15 March. I come to assure you, Your Royal Highness, that everything will be done to speed up the deployment so that this is achieved in good time for the elections to be held as planned in twelve months.

"The United Nations prides itself on being able to accompany the Cambodian people in their march toward peace and liberal democracy. The scale of the task should not be underestimated, however. The success of the operation depends, as you said, on the degree of (?cooperation) of all concerned parties and the respect for the pledges they have made.

"I propose to discuss with you, Your Royal Highness, and with members of the Supreme National Council [SNC], the means to promote this cooperation to enable the transitional authority to carry out its mission in (?honorable) conditions and with (?maximum) result. Under your guidance and wise leadership, and with the active support of the SNC, I am convinced that it is possible to solve the difficulties which might crop up.

"The Paris agreement has offered us a historic occasion to install a durable peace in Cambodia and to allow its people to live in stability, freedom, and dignity. The entire world is ready, through the United Nations, to contribute to the (?realization) of this ambition.

"However, it is up to the Cambodian parties to show that they have the will, political will, to renounce grudges and bitterness and to unite and take up the challenge of peace. It would then be possible to resolutely start the reconstruction and development [words indistinct] and inaugurate in the entire region a new era, an era based on concord, cooperation, dialogue, friendship, and fraternity.

Appeals for Funds

BK2104062692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0403 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 21—U.N. Chief Butrus Butrus Ghali urgently appealed to the world's donors Monday for funds to support the Cambodian peacekeeping operation lest it be forgotten in the rush for U.N. peace funds elsewhere in the world, AFP reports.

The Secretary-General also presided over (?the signing) of two international human rights covenants by the Cambodian factions, including the murderous Khmer Rouge.

"Our approach is reconciliation," Butrus Ghali said, regarding the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge in a human rights treaty.

The Khmer Rouge are responsible for the deaths of about one million people through execution and starvation.

But in a strongly worded statement at the signing ceremony, he reminded the Khmer Rouge of their past and said the U.N. peacekeeping mandate was to ensure that such violations do not recur.

With the signatures of Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, the Cambodian factions "show their willingness to overcome the serious mistakes of the past, to open a new page in the history of Cambodia and to lay the foundations for a free society, based on law and justice."

In his appeal, Butrus Ghali asked for 593 million dollars for food, health services, shelter, education, training and restoration of Cambodia's basic infrastructure.

"The funds are urgently needed to help this beleaguered nation recover from more than two decades of conflict and suffering and to ensure that the political process that has put the nation on the road to democracy is not compromised," he told a news conference.

"Additional funds are still required if the repatriation (of 375,000 refugees from Thai border camps)... is to proceed smoothly," he said, pledging to stick to the deadline of repatriating all refugees before the U.N. run elections scheduled for May 1993.

"We will do whatever needs to be done" to complete the repatriation on time, including using planes if necessary, he said, adding, "this is not over-optimism."

Butrus-Ghali said other peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia, El Salvador, Somalia and Angola were in danger of draining the commitments of international donors away from Cambodia.

Nevertheless, he said he was optimistic the peace plan would work given the "political will" among all four previously warring factions to work for unity and national reconciliation.

Diplomats said the secretary-general took a strong line in private discussions with Cambodian officials, particularly the Khmer Rouge, who has resisted giving free access to U.N. officials.

The head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, said his staff was frustrated and had threatened to take the matter to the U.N. Security Council for action.

But Butrus Ghali said Security Council action would not be needed beause the problem had been solved. "We will see progress over the next few days," said without giving specifics.

Optimistic on UNTAC Operations

BK2004063692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 20—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali toured a repatriation center in northwest Cambodia on Sunday, his second day of an inspection of the world's largest U.N. peacekeeping operation, according to AFP.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has "done wonderful work. Everything is excellent," the U.N. chief told reporters after returning to the capital in a U.N. transport plane.

Butrus Ghali met some of the refugees at the transitory reception center in Battambang and then was shown demining techniques, including the use of mine-sniffing dogs by the Thai engineering battalion.

The Thais are removing mines from the roads being used to transport the 375,000 refugees back from border camps in Thailand.

Despite being briefed on some of the delays and problems facing UNTAC's demining and repatriation programs, Butrus Ghali had a positive outlook, saying, "I was an optimist when I arrived. I am more an optimist now."

However, he was scheduled to make a major appeal on Monday for more international aid for the program.

UNTAC, employing some 21,000 people at an estimated cost of 1.8 billion dollars, has so far [word indistinct] only 200 million dollars of its funding approved.

Butrus Ghali also inspected a Malaysian ranger battalion that is escorting the refugees back from the border.

On Saturday night, the secretary-general had a 25-minute audience with Supreme National Council (SNC) Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk before attending an official dinner in his honor.

U.N. officials said the two discussed the general situation in Cambodia and that Butrus Ghali asked the prince to ask the Phnom Penh government to be more helpful in allocating land and facilities for UNTAC.

The prince assured that he would do his best, the officials said.

Lack of office space and facilities has hampered UNTAC operations in some areas.

On Monday, the U.N. chief was to preside over the signing of two international human rights covenants—the international covenant on civil and political rights and the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights.

All four previously warring factions are to sign the documents, including the Khmer Rouge, whose documented record of hunam rights abuses gave them a reputation in the international community as brutal killers.

Under the covenants, Cambodia will be bound by international law to uphold human rights, including the rights of self-determination, equal employment opportunities, free association and assembly, the presumption of innocence and the right to vote.

Their signing means that UNTAC's Human Rights Office can now work to get them incorporated into Cambodia's own laws. "For us it's a very pragmatic, as well as a symbolic act," said UNTAC's Human Rights Chief Dennis McNamara. "It gets the ball rolling."

Calling his role in enforcing human rights in Cambodia "interventionist," McNamara said UNTAC can now compare the covenants with existing Cambodian laws.

"If there are laws or regulations nationally that are inconsistent with those covenants, they'd have to be changed," he said.

The covenants also require Cambodian officials to report to the United Nations yearly on steps they have taken to implement the tenets, McNamara said.

A western diplomat said the covenants would give the international community the ammunition it needs to pressure the Khmer Rouge into complicance.

So far, he said, the Khmer Rouge have not demonstrated that they allow freedom of movement, press or assembly within the territory they control.

While Khmer Rouge officials at SNC meetings have pledged adherence to such rights, "this nails it down even harder," the diplomat said.

The Phnom Penh government has been accused of violations as well, with the city's leading opposition figures living in fear of persecution.

McNamara said his office was allowed to take action only against specific complaints, and that several were being investigated.

Another six or seven covenants, including women's and children's rights, will be presented to the Cambodian factions for their signature this year, McNamara said.

Sihanouk Hosts Banquet

BK2004124592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the nation, head of State of Cambodia, and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], hosted a banquet at the Khemarin Palace at 1730 on 18 April in honor of His Excellency [H.E.] Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general , who is currently paying an official visit to Cambodia. Present were SNC members representing all Cambodian factions, namely H.E. Dit Munti, H.E. Hor Namhong, H.E. Im Chhunlim, H.E. Sin Sen, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, H.E. Khieu Samphan, H.E. Son Sen, and H.E. Son Sann.

On the UN side were H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of H.E. the UN Secretary General and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], H.E. General John Sanderson, commander of the UN forces in Cambodia, and several UN and UNTAC officials in Cambodia.

Speaking on that occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed great joy at welcoming H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali on Cambodian soil. The prince said His Excellency is able to visit Cambodia now after his election as UN secretary general, thanks to the Cambodian people and the SNC. He added that this showed he has never forgotten Cambodia and that it is always in his heart. He then said: We are extremely proud to give a historic welcome to an outstanding personality such as you, who have sacrificed to help Cambodia live in peace, freedom, democracy, and progress. For this reason, we in the SNC have been working day and night in close cooperation with UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] and UNTAC to restore Cambodia. We deeply thank you and all UN officials and personalities for fulfilling the mission in Cambodia.

H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali expressed his extreme gladness at HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk's return which has enabled Cambodia to live in independence, neutrality, and peace. The UN secretary general stressed that HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk is a key and a national father figure necessary for the Cambodian solution. On behalf of the United Nations, he extended unreserved support for the prince and the SNC and the prince's participation, which he said is an important factor for progress toward free elections in Cambodia. He said they were going to do their best to give the whole world a new outlook on peace and progress.

Afterward, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the princess consort invited H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali and all guests of honor to watch a dance performed by a troupe from the Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture. H.E. Butrus Ghali and other guests of honor expressed great pleasure at seeing the revival of the

Cambodian culture. They expressed their hope that Cambodia will achieve peace in the near future.

Meeting Held With Ranariddh

BK2104070192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general, said at an official meeting with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, that he is very happy because Prince Norodom Ranariddh is a doctor of law who used to study and became a good lecturer at the same university he went to in France. H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali talked a lot about international law which he and the prince had studied until both of them became lecturers, although in different groups, at the university in France.

During a visit to the royal palace and the Preah Kev Morakat Monastery, he told Prince Norodom Ranariddh that he will strive to find the means to get funds for restoring various structures in the royal palace, particularly the Tevea Vinichai building which is run down as a result of a lack of maintenance for more than 20 years during the war.

Khieu Samphan Sends Letter

BK2104023692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Report on "letter from His Excellency Khieu Samphan to the UN secretary general on the question of rehabilitation aid"]

[Text] On 20 April, the rehabilitation aid sector of the UN authority sent a document to the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia concerning rehabilitation aid. Immediately after receiving this document, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the SNC, wrote a letter to the UN secretary general. H.E. Khieu Samphan's letter pointed out:

The primary fact in this document regarding rehabilitation aid clearly shows the attempts to legalize and consolidate the regime installed by foreign forces. Such an attempt runs counter to the spirit and essence of the Paris agreement.

H.E. Khieu Samphan added: the Paris agreement defines that during the transitional period, the SNC is the legal organization and sole source of power of Cambodia representing Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, and that the four Cambodian factions must have equal status. An attempt to strengthen and recognize any party other than the SNC as the Government of Cambodia will certainly hamper the peace process. The aid mentioned in this document will definitely not pass into the hands of needy Cambodians. On the contrary, it will fall into the hands of foreign forces and the regime installed by these foreign forces for them to carry on the war and continue violating the cease-fire, thus causing Cambodia and the Cambodian people to remain in ruins and misery.

H.E. Khieu Samphan expressed the hope that his excellency the UN secretary general would certainly consider the above remarks by the party of Democratic Kampuchea which sincerely wanted to contribute to the correct implementation of the Paris agreement for the sake of Cambodia's peace, independence, and national reconciliation and for peace and stability in the entire region.

Successful Visit Ends

BK2104061892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general, safely left Phnom Penh at 1200 on 20 April after he successfully completed a three-day visit to Cambodia. In his honor, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], accompanied H.E. the UN secretary general to the Pochentong International Airport. Also on hand to see the UN secretary general off were many SNC members, such as H.E. Hor Namhong, H.E. Dit Munti, H.E. Im Chhunlim, H.E. Sin Sen, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, H.E. Khieu Samphan, and H.E. Son Sen, and H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, H.E. Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, and their excellencies the ambassadors representing the five UN Security Council permanent member-countries, representatives of diplomatic missions of various countries to Cambodia, many embassy officials, and thousands of Phnom Penh inhabitants.

Khmer Rouge Invites UN Into Controlled Areas

BK2104065892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 21 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge have invited U.N. peacekeepers to inspect limited areas within their zones, clearing the way for the second phase of the U.N. operation, UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said Tuesday.

"It's not a revolutionary breakthrough, but it's a positive step forward," Akashi, the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), told AFP.

He was attending a departure ceremony for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who left for a medical checkup in Beijing and to attend the anniversary of North Korea's military forces at the invitation of Kim Il-song. He is due to return May 6.

At a Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting late Monday, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan invited UNTAC to survey five sites in areas it controls for the cantonment of its military force under U.N. supervision.

If all inspections are carried out by the end of April, it clears the way for the declaration of the second phase of UNTAC—the demobilization and cantonment of forces. UNTAC needs to give the factions four weeks notice, and if the declaration is not made by May 1, it pushes back the whole process.

"This is why the action of the Khmer Rouge was so important in making this move," said a Western diplomat who attended the meeting.

Previously the faction had refused such access until UNTAC could verify the withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge leaders believe there have been Vietnamese troops inside Cambodia since their invasion in 1978, but Hanoi insists that all withdrew in 1989.

Khieu Samphan in his statement said he was grateful for the first few UNTAC border checkpoints designed to verify the withdrawal.

The loosening of the Khmer Rouge position was "partly" due to the visit of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali which ended Monday, Akashi said.

Diplomats said he took a hard line with the factions, telling them that if they didn't cooperate with the peace agreement, there were plenty of other countries in the world where U.N. money could be better spent.

Akashi at one point had threatened the Khmer Rouge with U.N. Security Council action if they were not more open with their territory.

But Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said he was skeptical of the Khmer Rouge statement, and that their new openness would have to be seen to be believed.

"Declaring is one thing, but implementing is another," he said in an interview. "The Khmer Rouge have to show they will do what they have said, but in the past what they say is one thing and what they do is another."

Also at the SNC meeting the Khmer Rouge declared they want all internal factional frontiers abolished and urged that the SNC should take more administrative control.

The contrary, the Khmer Rouge should open their zone more. They are the ones who are still keeping their border," [quote mark as received] Hor Namhong countered.

The Paris peace agreements ending the Cambodian civil war leave the Phnom Penh government structure in place over about 80 percent of the country.

The Khmer Rouge, along with Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) leader Son Sann, want the SNC to have the control.

"The SNC is not a government," Hor Namhong said. "The Paris agreements are very clear about the SNC's role."

The SNC groups the four factions in a U.N.-administered body that represents the sovereignty of Cambodia. It makes decisions on large questions of policy but leaves day-to-day governing to the factions within their own zones.

Also at the SNC meeting, the Cambodian Mine Action Center was established in principle. The center would take a long-term approach to the de-mining of Cambodia.

The next SNC meeting is scheduled for May 7.

More Filipino Troops Sought for Peacekeeping

BK2004064092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0446 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 20—The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has asked the Philippines to boost its contribution to the multilateral force now deployed in the war-torn country, AFP quoted military officials in Manila as saying in Manila Sunday.

An 84-member Marine contingent, along with 15 Navy observers, were due to leave for Phnom Penh at the end of the month to help man the Cambodian Navy after Manila said it could not send a full battalion becuuse of election duties and the campaign against Communist insurgents.

However, UNTAC has asked the Philippines to send an additional 16 officers and 144 troops for its naval contingent, said the officials, who asked not to be named.

DK Statement at Joint Military Session Cited

BK2104042092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The Joint Military Working Group [JMWG] held a session on 18 April to discuss the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces along the territorial waters, coasts, seas, rivers, and in the eastern, central, and western borders of Cambodia, and the tasks of these forces in cooperation with the four Cambodian factions.

During the session, the representative of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [DK] made a statement emphasizing the stand of the DK party. Here is the gist of the statement:

1. We thank His Excellency [H.E.] General Sanderson for his efforts in drafting a proposal on the implementation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia's [UNTAC] plan regarding naval forces. Your excellency's efforts clearly attest to your and the UNTAC's determination to speed up the implementation of the Paris agreement rapidly and in all aspects to bring genuine independence, peace, and national reconciliation to Cambodia and to ensure the total withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces and their weaponry

from Cambodia and that they do not return (?through) either territorial waters or overland frontiers.

2. With the spirit of contributing to enabling the UNTAC's naval operation to proceed smoothly and successfully, we would like to propose the following:

A. Concerning a point in the proposal on the implementation of the UNTAC's plan which says that in line with the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991, the UNTAC must supervise Cambodia's sovereignty, in our opinion, Article 3 of the Paris agreement states that the SNC shall hand over all necessary authorities and power to UNTAC so that the implementation of the agreement can proceed successfully. In this connection, we propose that the SNC should join with the UNTAC in supervising Cambodia's sovereignty which was recognized by the world prior to March 1970.

B. Realizing that all objectives defined in the Paris agreement must be fulfilled, it is necessary to clearly clarify the tasks of the UNTAC naval forces, particularly regarding the supervision work on the eastern, central, and Western borders of Cambodia as well as along the land frontiers, territorial waters, seas, rivers, and so forth, to be able to strictly monitor the total withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces from Cambodia and avoid foreigners from transporting aid, weapons, and ammunition back to Cambodia. Particularly, the UNTAC naval forces and four Cambodian factions must make every effort to check and avoid the transportation of weapons and ammunition into Cambodia. For this reason, they should conduct strict patrols along the seas, rivers, and ports.

In this connection, we would like to make the following proposal:

To clearly define the tasks of the UNTAC naval forces, that is to supervise the total withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces, military advisers and personnel, arms, and ammunition and avoid them from being sent back to Cambodia, and to verify the cessation of foreign military aid to all Cambodian factions.

The participants accepted the opinion of the DK representative and promised to do everything possible to ensure that the UNTAC's supervision work proceed effectively in line with its mandate.

Chea Sim Visits Villagers in Prey Veng 15 Apr

BK1904013892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Accompanied by Mess. Sar Kheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and interior minister; Yim Chhaili, member of the CPP Central Committee and public health minister; Vong Sot, chairman of Kandal Province's party committee and people's committee, and Min Khin, deputy minister of religious affairs, Mr. Chea Sim, chairman of both the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and National Assembly, and his wife paid a visit to villagers at Krabau Commune in Kamchay Mea District of Prey Veng Province on the morning of 15 April. They also distributed basic necessities, as a gesture of gratitude, to the local Buddhist monks and senior citizens who have sacrificed their moral and physical strength and property to raising the local outstanding cadres thanks to whom the society and nation have been salvaged from the disaster of the past.

In addition, Mr. Chea Sim and his delegation also held a religious ritual to pay tribute to the ancestral spirits and joined the local people in celebrating the Cambodian national new year—the year of the monkey, Buddhist era 2535—with joyous merriment.

On that occasion, Mr. Chea Sim also spoke about the new development of the Cambodian situation and urged the people to heighten their awareness of building up solidarity and unity around the CPP and the State of Cambodia's government and to dedicate attention to improving their living conditions as well.

42 French Firms Permitted To Invest in Cambodia

BK1704144592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network 1300 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Summary] According to a list provided by the Investment Bureau of the Planning Ministry, the State of Cambodia has so far authorized 42 French companies to invest in Cambodia. They are to invest, among other things, in waterway and air transportation, hostelry, restaurants, textile production, communications and postal service, and tourism.

Indonesia

Reportage on Visit by Australian Prime Minister

Visit To Stress Economic Ties

BK2004125092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0934 GMT 20 Apr 92

[By Riris Irawati]

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 20 (OANA/ANTARA)—The prediction of observers of Indonesia-Australia relations in Darwin early March that the visit of Prime Minister Paul Keating to Indonesia would very likely be business-like, turned out to be a reality when the Australian envoy to Indonesia Philip Flood said the visit would mainly be colored by the signing of several economic agreements.

In a press conference here Wednesday (April 15) when Flood officially announced the visit would take place from April 21 to 24, it was revealed that while in Indonesia, the prime minister who assumed his post in December 1991, would sign agreements on avoidance of double taxation and cooperation in the sector of fishery.

Aside from that he is also scheduled to deliver a speech on the Indonesia-Australia commercial relations before a number of prominent businessmen and inaugurate the representative office of Western Australia in Surabaya in anticipation of the growing economic relations between the two countries.

Amidst reports on the Lusitania Expresso, the Portuguese ferry trying to launch a provocative mission to East Timor early last month, experts of Indonesia-Australia relations, especially those based in Darwin (Northern Territory's capital), stated they were certain the Expresso issue would not, in any way, disturb the plan of Prime Minister Keating to visit Indonesia.

However, they also said that, should the visit proceed as scheduled, economic issues would very likely dominate Keating's agenda in Indonesia.

Keating himself—whose educational and working backgrounds are closely related to economic matters—apparently is determined to handle his country's economic problems by first of [word indistinct] turning his eyes to Asia.

Closer business relations with Asia, including Indonesia, is fundamental to Australian welfare in the 90's, Keating said.

The future strength of Australian economy, the 48-year old prime minister said, depends a lot on its integrity with the global market, especially the Asia-Pacific market.

Keating's statements showed that the sectors of business and economy are where Indonesia and Australia have many similarities.

However, it seems that other sectors still have a long way to go before they can reach mutual understanding, analysts said.

Professor Desmond Ball, head of the Australian National University (ANU)'s strategic and defense studies center in the preface of a book entitled "Strange Neighbors: The Australia-Indonesia relationship" said, although the fact of geography has placed us next door to each other, we are in many significant respects strangers.

In a similar tone former Australian ambassador to Indonesia (1985-88), Bill Morrison, said, we are close neighbors and miles apart culturally.

He also said that to be frank there was not much to bind the two countries together.

The differences become clearer when Indonesians refer to the David Jenkins' article in the Sydney MORNING HERALD in 1986, the [words indistinct] Australians to meddle in the government's efforts to phase out troublemakers groups in Irian Jaya and East Timor, the baseless anxiety over the so-called Indonesia's expansionist attitude, or the fact that some centers of Indonesian studies in Australia were dominated by lecturers and reseachers with anti-Indonesia spirit.

Indonesian observers frequently also described the Australians as the westerners from the south or the southerners from the west.

Fortunately, there are quite a number of people like Morrison who kept on saying that no matter how many differences there were, the two countries could not remain indifferent towards each other.

From my own long association with Indonesia, I do not regard the differences as an obstacle but rather as an attraction, he said.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans acknowledged the differences saying that, no two neighbors anywhere in the world are as different, in terms of history, culture, population, language, and political and social traditions, as Australia and Indonesia.

However, he also said, although we cannot guarantee that misunderstandings between us will not occur from time to time, we can work to ensure that our two communities are not strangers to each other.

The business-heavy visit of Prime Minister Keating, observers said, is a very timely one as Indonesia itself is also busy trying to expand its market so that it will not have to be too dependent on its traditional markets like the US, Japan and EC.

Indonesia-Australia bilateral trade now is amounting to rupiah 3.4 trillion, while ASEAN (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) beginning from 1991 has become Australia's second largest foreign market (replacing the US and EC).

Australia's investments in Indonesia has reached the value of one billion Australian dollars, thus contradicting the assumption that trade and invetsment relations between the two countries were only marginal.

That Keating has chosen Indonesia as the first country he visited as prime minister reflected the fact that he has always paid a serious attention to the neighboring country, especially as he is so keen with his look Asia policy.

From the sector of business, apparently both Indonesia and Australia hope to be able to work together and reach mutual understanding in other sectors as well.

Keating—who once said that the Union Jack in the corner of the Australian flag looks strange—is widely known for his idea of an independent Australia, free from the shadow of Britain and the U.S.

And if the successor of Bob Hawke intends to realize his idea soon, observers said, he has no other choice but to foster common understanding and push aside the feelings that it is a stranger to Indonesia, one of its closest neighbors.

Keating Arrives, Welcomed by Alatas

BK2104061492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mrs. Anita Keating, and their entourage arrived at 1120 West Indonesian Time [0420 GMT] today aboard a Royal Australian Air Force plane. On their arrival at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusumah Airport, the Australian prime minister and his entourage were welcomed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. From the airport, the state guests proceeded to the Merdeka Palace where they received an official welcoming ceremony by the president and Mrs. Suharto.

The Australian prime minister, scheduled to visit Indonesia until 24 April, will attend a dinner banquet in his honor at Jakarta's State Palace this evening. This afternoon, he is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the State Guest House.

Daily Hails Visit

BK2104073692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 21 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] KOMPAS hopes that Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's current visit to Indonesia will lead to comprehensive bilateral relations in political, economic, social, and cultural fields. Paul Keating's choice of visiting Indonesia first after he assumed the post of Australian prime minister reflects his political will to establish bilateral cooperation as well as reconfirms the well-tested political ties. This is especially true in view of the fact that the southern Pacific region is very important in the economic and security sense. KOMPAS stresses that Australia is by no means an obstacle in the efforts to forge an Asia-Pacific cooperation, but a partner capable of helping strengthen such cooperation.

Malaysian Minister Discusses Island Dispute

BK1804114092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0742 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Medan, North Sumatra (OANA-ANTARA)—Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said that relations between Malaysia and Indonesia must not be harmed by the dispute over Sipadan and Ligitan islands, adding that the case can be settled peacefully.

Malaysia and Indonesia are now gathering all the documents (on the islands) possessed by the two countries to be discussed in an agreed upon meeting, Badawi said here, on Friday.

Badawi, who arrived here on Friday for a two-day visit, was to officiate a new building of the Malaysian Consulate General.

Malaysia even wanted to have a speedy settlement of the case, Badawi said on the case involving the two islands which are located on the two countries' territorial sea borders in East Kalimantan Province and Sabah State.

He emphasized that the case should be settled without having to harm the good relations between the two countries.

Badawi said that his government also had stopped the construction of the tourism facilities on one of the islands by a Malaysian private company.

The activities, according to Badawi, had progressed before the dispute over the ownership of the two islands surfaced.

Badawi strongly warned the press of the two countries against careless reports on the case, adding that differences could not be settled through newspapers carrying one party's views.

The solution must be sought by taking the differences to the negotiation table, Badawi asserted.

Replying to questions on the next Nonaligned Movement summit to be held in September 1992 in Jakarta, Badawi said that Malaysia supports Indonesia's aspiration that the event should not only produce political decisions, but also economic and trade resolutions.

Flanked by Malaysian Ambassador Datuk Abdullah Zawawi, the foreign affairs minister added that such economic and development progress-oriented decisions are needed as the world has just got itself off the cold war influences.

Minister Badawi was accompanied by Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry's director of protocol affairs, Ambiar Tamala.

PNG Seeks Use of Police Academy for Training

BK2004134892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0817 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Jayapura, April 20, (OANA/ANTARA)—The chief of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) constabulary, Ilo Geno, has stated that his government has expressed the wish to send constabulary officials for police studies in Indonesia.

The wish was conveyed by Ilo Geno (36) to the Irian Jaya regional police chief, Police Colonel Muljadi, before returning to PNG on sunday, after witnessing 'stick and handcuff' exercises at the state police academy in Jayapura.

He went on to say that if the PNG wish could be accepted by the Indonesian Government, PNG police officers would be sent for police studies in Java and non-commissioned officers would attend the Jayapura Police Academy.

The aim to send PNG constabulary officers for police studies in Indonesia was that after posting in the RI [Republic of Indonesia]-PNG border areas the police officers would not meet difficulties in communicating with border crossers at the border checking-points.

Apart from facilitating border duties, the cooperation in police studies would also further enhance the friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries, Ilo Geno said.

According to Ilo Geno, many members of his country's constabulary were at present studying the Indonesian language at the PNG university in order to enhance their knowledge of the Indonesian language for eventual postings in the border areas.

He further said that the communities living on both sides of the border had close family relations causing frequent mutual visits.

Therefore, these traditional border crossings would be dealt with more smoothly if the PNG border police were equipped with adequate control of the Indonesian language, Ilo Geno said.

The PNG police chief also spoke highly of the control of traditional martial art possessed by the Indonesian police enabling them to defend themselves against criminal assaults.

OPEC Members Urged To Observe Production Level

BK2004134692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1002 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 20 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia hopes that all OPEC members would abide by the production level of 22.982 million barrels per day [bpd] which was agreed by OPEC's ministerial price monitoring committee, an Indonesian minister has said.

Indonesia does desire to lower the agreed production level at the coming meeting on April 23-25 and would suggest that all OPEC members would abide by the agreement, Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told reporters here on Monday.

He explained that there had been a significant decrease in oil supply from 23.4 million bpd to 22.4 million bpd since the adoption of an agreement to cut the production level by nine per cent in February.

There had been a significant cut in production level even though the target to lower the oil output to 22.987 million bpd had not yet been achieved, the minister added.

Therefore, the minister did not expect a major decision with regard to the oil production in the comming meeting.

Last February's agreement to cut production level by nine per cent in Vienna was intended to reduce the world oil supply and to boost oil price to the OPEC target of 21 U.S. dollars per barrel.

The coming Vienna meeting will be attended by nine non-OPEC oil ministers who will discuss with their OPEC counterparts the oil supply situation on the world market.

On the occasion, the OPEC ministers will also discuss the result of a conference on the environment held in Vienna last week.

Minister on 'Subregional Resilience' in Pacific

BK1804114492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0643 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), April 18 (OANA-ANTARA)—Defence and Security Minister L.B. Murdani said subregional resilience in Asia-Pacific territory would be most important to promote relationships, stability, security as well as peace in the region.

The minister made the remarks when he formally opened the first and second conference for security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region at Sanur Hotel here Friday.

He said the only way to safeguard security in the Pacific should be through a balance of interest based on regional togetherness and cooperation.

In developing such a cooperation, most exemplary will be the ASEAN regional concept, the minister noted, predicting that security in the Asia-Pacific regions would be a reality through the enhancement of cooperation and human welfare.

Efforts would be easier by solidifying the subregional cooperation first, adding that military force is also most significant for each of the nations though not necessarily to mean that this should be the main purpose.

"Funds for defence and security are not popular anymore in many countries and even tended to be subjected to limitations," the four-star general stated when addressing some 60 delegates from the 20 participating countries.

Murdani listed three elements required for the establishment of regional resilience in the Pacific area [words indistinct] covering the national resilience of the respective member nations, the quality of interaction of the subregion, and the quality to receive global and regional changing strategies.

He further underlined the need for good relationship in the subregion—socially, politically, economically as well as militarily.

"The main challenge at present is how to promote economic cooperation in the region between the member nations for the sake of peace," the minister asserted.

Indonesian Ambassador to Australia Sabam Siagian, replying to ANTARA's questions, said that no haste is needed in the efforts to establish such a framework of integrated cooperation between the Pacific nations.

This most complex cooperation must be preceded by the establishment of unity and friendship among the member nations, he observed.

Taking part in the conference were also institutions engaged in research work and study on a new pattern of a balanced strategy for the region.

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan Greets Kim Il-song's Birthday

BK1804103292 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 18 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], has recently sent a message of greetings to Kim Il-song, secretary general of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, in connection with his 80th birthday.

The message extends best wishes of success, happiness and good health to President Kim Il-song. It also describes that under the leadership of the WPK with President Kim Il-song as great leader, the Korean people are believed to score more achievements in building their fatherland a prosperous country and achieve the cause of national reunification.

President Kaysone Phomvihan was convinced that the good traditional relationship and cooperation between the two parties, governments and people of the two countries will increasingly develop.

SRV Journalist Delegation Visits 9-16 Apr

BK1604140292 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 16 (KPL)—A delegation of the Union of Vietnamese Journalists paid an official friendship visit to Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] from April 9-16, 1992, at the invitation of the Association of Lao Jounalists.

The delegation led by Secretary General Phan Quang, director general of the Radio of Vietnam, held talks with its Lao counterpart led by Acting Chairman Bouaban Volakhoun, editor-in-chief of the daily PASASON.

The heads of the two delegations signed an agreement on cooperation providing for increased exchange of visits between jounalists of the two countries.

The delegation of the Union of Vietnamese Jounalists was received by Mr. Somlat Chanthamat, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and head of its Propaganda and Training Board, and by Mr. Bounteng Vongsai, vice minister for information and culture and director general of the Lao National Radio and Television.

The Vietnamese delegation also visited industrial plants and celebrated with the Lao people the traditional New Year.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

BK1704134292 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—A cooperation agreement in mass media for 1992-1995 between Laos and Vietnam was signed in Vientiane on April 16 by the presidents of the journalists' associations of the two countries, respectively Bouaban Volakhoun and Phan Quang.

The agreement specifies efforts to further strengthen cooperation in mass-media activities, including exchanges of visits between the two journalists' organizations.

Japanese-Aided Television Station To Be Built

BK1704151692 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—The general director of the Lao radio and television and a representative of the Japanese contracting company Shimizu recently signed the document on the construction of the new television station due to start next month.

The building to be constructed will include the following: a 150 m2 [square meters] program recording studio, a newscast room, a broadcast construction room, 4 editing rooms, two video recording rooms, a room for keeping backdrops, and a repair room.

The Japanese side will, among other things, also help install the electrical, water, and air-conditioning systems.

In this project, the Japanese Government has granted a grant aid of 341 million yen to Laos. The agreement to this effect was signed between the two governments in December 1991.

Japanese Fertilizer Aid Begins To Arrive

BK2004115892 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, 20 April (KPL)—2,560 tons [of] chemical fertilizers granted by the Japanese Government have partly reached Laos according to an agreed schedule during 14-27 April, 1992.

The fertilizers lie within the aid framework of the KR-2 [expansion unknown] under the Japanese Government to Laos at a value of 400 million yen. The memorandum on the provision of the fertilizers signed between representatives of the two governments in Vientiane early this year also covers the grant of agricultural materials and equipment, such as rice husking and threshing machines, tractors, sprayers, pesticide apart from fertilizers.

The delivery of the fertilizers to Laos is made through checkpoints at Tha Naleng in Vientiane Prefecture, in Savannkhet and Champassak Provinces. The aid will help boost agricultural production in seven provinces

given priority for the purpose—Vientiane Prefecture and Province, Bolikhamsai, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, and Champassak.

Philippines

Government Rejects U.S. Request To Condemn Libya

HK2104095592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The Philippines has rejected a suggestion made by the United States asking the government to issue a formal condemnation of the Libyan Government for its involvement in the bombing of a Pan-American Airlines jet in 1988.

According to an unidentified Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] official, the U.S. Embassy in Manila has made diplomatic representations to our government, asking it to issue a strong statement against Libya. However, the DFA turned down the suggestion, not wanting to endanger our diplomatic relations with Libya.

The same DFA official said that even if the Philippines wanted to help in the efforts to eradicate international terrorism by issuing such a statement, the country cannot do so because thousands of Filipinos are working in Libya. He added that if such a condemnation was issued by the government, violence may once again break out in the southern part of the country.

It has been reported that Nur Misuari, the leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, has been receiving financial support from Libya. He has headquarters in both Tripoli, Libya and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It will be remembered that it was Libya's intercession which led to the waning of the Mindanao conflict, and the government does not want to reverse this situation by issuing a condemnation of Libya.

Leading Officials Respond to Coup Rumors

Aquino Dismisses Possibility

HK2104084392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By Dick Sinchongco in Malacanang]

[Text] President Aquino has again played down reports of a plan by rebel soldiers to launch a new coup attempt during the forthcoming election. In a statement, the president said she remains confident that the rightist rebels no longer have the ability or the moral authority to disrupt the election. She stressed that the Philippines as a nation is now moving toward an orderly and successful electoral exercise and a peaceful transition of power to the next president. She added that there is no force capable of disrupting the handover of power.

Abadia Allays Fears

HK2104090792 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 21 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The Armed Forces high command yesterday confirmed fresh efforts by freed rebel officers to recruit new members from within the military organization.

But General Lisandro C. Abadia, the AFP [Armed Forces of The Philippines] chief of staff, at the same time allayed fears of another coup d'etat or any other attempt to destabilize the Aquino government whose term ends in June this year.

"There is nothing on the ground that indicates another coup," Abadia told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo. "We are aware of the (renewed) recruitments by the URG (ultra-rightist group) but these have been reported to us by those who are being recruited."

Abadia said he had been receiving reports that former Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit, who is now out on bail, has been "going around trying to recruit members." "Bibit has been doing this since he was freed after paying bail last year," Abadia claimed, adding that the military could not actually arrest Bibit due to lack of "concrete evidence" against him.

Major General Arturo Enrile, the Army chief, also disclosed that members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [National Revolutionary Alliance] and the Young Officers Union (RAM-YOU) sent letters to military field units last month, urging soldiers not to be apathetic should the situation worsen before or after the May 11 polls.

Enrile bared during a news conference that the military had intercepted a RAM letter dated March 16 to military field units in Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. He said the letter was mailed in a post office at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

"The (RAM-YOU) is trying to project that they are still strong when actually they are not," Enrile said. "We don't actually consider the letter as a form of recruitment... so there is no actual recruitment going on."

Abadia and Enrile assured the public that the military was in control of the situation.

"We would like to assure the public that there is no coup or any destabilization move by the URG. We would like to reiterate that the RAM and YOU no longer have the capability to mount a coup," said Abadia. "The top leadership of the AFP does not believe in coups. I do not believe in coups and I do not have the mandate to govern."

As far as the Army command was concerned, said Enrile, there were no indications a coup was in the works. He explained that the rumored "troop movement" in Fort Bonifacio during the Holy Week was "part of a training or exercise run" of the Army's special forces. "If you are

talking about the Army soldiers in active duty... there was really no indication whatsoever of restiveness."

Senior AFP officials said rumors about an impending right-wing move during the Holy Week were propaganda designed by the RAM-YOU. The rumor was fueled by the raid on a house in Blue Ridge, Quezon City, where fugitive coup leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan was reportedly sighted, and the re-arrests of two YOU cadres last April 8 for allegedly attending clandestine meetings.

Rumors of a coup filled the air two weekends ago when reports were being floated of troop movements in Metro Manila and restiveness in Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu cities. The grapevine said the planned move by the right-wing forces was part of the rumored Operation No Election, or Oplan Noel. The grapevine, moreover, said the attempt would take place either on Holy Thursday or on Black Saturday.

The string of out-of-town trips by Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa to Cagayan de Oro and other provinces in the South last week fanned coup rumors. Speculation had it that De Villa's visits to the field were aimed at pacifying allegedly restive troops.

Contrary to reports, Abadia said he never placed the whole AFP on red alert. Neither did he order the deployment of five or six battalions of soldiers to beef up the National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC). "There was no such thing as defensive deployment by the military," he said.

Enrile said the re-arrests of two Army junior officers and the raid on a suspected Honasan safehouse were part of a continuing effort by the military to bag Honasan and 10 other fugitive coup leaders.

Claims of Malacanang-Sponsored Coup Denied

Idea Called 'Crazy'

HK2104091592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Malacanang has emphatically denied the accusations of former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza that the palace plans to declare a state of national emergency to prevent holding the May election. In an interview, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes stressed that there is no truth to Adaza's accusations. According to Paredes:

[Begin recording] This accusation is baseless, it is not true. As far as I know, the person who said we will have a Malacanang-sponsored coup is crazy. He has no authority in the Office of the President. This [the accusation] is not true. And I will tell you that if we have a plan like this, I will be on the opposition's side. The people want to hold the election and have a peaceful transition of power—they do not want anyone to disrupt this election. If Malacanang did this [sponsor a coup], we would have all the people back on the streets to overthrow this government. This will not happen. [end recording]

At the same time, Paredes accused Adaza of politicking, saying that the former assemblyman, who is a candidate in the coming polls, is running out of issues to talk about.

Police Director Comments

HK2104084692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] director, has denied the accusation by former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza that the Armed Forces of the Philippine [AFP] and the PNP plan to launch a military takeover. General Nazareno said he knows nothing about any plan by the AFP and PNP to prevent holding elections on 11 May. He added that he is not a part of the alleged triumvirate with former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and General Lisandro Abadia [AFP chief of staff]. The PNP chief stated that he is complying with the Consitution and will safeguard peace and order for holding the election. The PNP will work hand in hand with the Commission on Elections in implementing contingency plans to prevent fraud and violence during the coming election.

Debt Relief Accord Tasked to New Administration

HK2104033892 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 21 Apr 92 p 9

[Text] Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo said yesterday the proposed debt relief agreement with the country's foreign bank creditors will not be signed by the present government.

He said it would be up to the next President if he would agree to the terms worked out by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia.

The tentative agreement forged by Estanislao and Cuisia with the creditor banks turned out to be worse than what Argentina and Brazil got from the same lenders.

Their respective debt negotiators recently succeeded in securing lower interest rates from their creditor banks.

Loan documentation, moreover, is not expected to be completed until May 11 or June 30 [as published], he added. The original target was April 14.

Under the proposed debt accord, the Philippines would buy back through huge discounts, $1.3 billion of its debts and to securitize [as published] the rest of its commercial bank debts eligible for restructuring.

Criticisms leveled against the deal have dampened the enthusiasm of the Central Bank and the Department of Finance to push ahead with the deal before Aquino ends her term.

Critics point out that Argentina is being charged lower interest rates on the bonds it is issuing to creditors to restructure its debt.

This led Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao to issue a memorandum to President Aquino last week asking her not to sign the debt agreement.

In the memorandum, Estanislao admitted indirectly that the country may have obtained poorer terms compared to what Argentina and Brazil got.

Estanislao, however, is reported to have backtracked on his pronouncement over the weekend.

High-placed sources said the barrage of criticism on the deal recalls the antagonism then former finance secretary Jaime Ongpin faced after he concluded a similar restructuring deal with foreign banks.

Analysts Doubt Existence of Red Scorpion Group

HK2104031392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The Red Scorpion Group [RSG] is just a figment of the imagination of some police officers. This is the opinion of intelligence and crime analysts assisting the Justice Department in the probe of the controversial deaths of 14 members of the so-called RSG during the rescue of American businessman Michael Barnes last 18 March. No mention of the RSG exists in the records of the intelligence service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines nor of the National Intelligence Security Agency. Likewise there are no records in National Bureau of Investigation nor in police intelligence units proving that the RSG exists as a branch of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, or of other leftist or rightist organizations.

Remarks made by Barnes himself indicated that he never heard the RSG mentioned during the 60 days he was held by his abductors. He said that one of his kidnappers, named Major, told him he was a member of the Young Officers' Union, which was in need of funds to launch a new coup d'etat.

Cardinal Sin Seen As 'Indirectly Campaigning'

HK1704052492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0431 GMT 17 April 92

[Text] Manila, April 17 (AFP)—Roman Catholic leader Jaime Cardinal Sin has been indirectly campaigning against certain presidential candidates in the May 11 elections, a local daily reported here Friday.

The MANILA CHRONICLE newspaper said that after a Holy Thursday mass celebrated by Sin in a local cathedral for about 100 priests, bundles of a pamphlet attacking right-wing opposition candidate Eduardo Cojuangco were distributed to the priests for distribution to their parishioners.

The pamphlet relates how Cojuangco, a crony of the late deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, enriched himself during Marcos' 20-year reign.

The CHRONICLE also quoted Sin, the influential archbishop of this city, as telling the faithful during the mass to vote for a presidential candidate "who will love, serve and respect the Catholic Church," and not to vote for "an enemy of the church."

The newspaper interpreted this as an attack on both Cojuangco and on ex-Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, a Protestant who has been endorsed by President Corazon Aquino as her chosen successor in the May elections.

Cojuangco has been reportedly endorsed by the Church of Christ (INK), a local fundamentalist group that supported Marcos and has long been hostile to Catholics, who make up about 80 percent of the Philippine population.

Although their numbers are estimated to be less than three million, the INK traditionally vote as a bloc, and are hence wooed by many politicians.

Spokesmen of the cardinal, a former close adviser of Aquino, could not be contacted for comment.

Sin previously endorsed House Speaker Ramon Mitra as his choice in the May elections and criticized Ramos for his role as head of paramilitary forces during the Marcos regime.

Mitra in turn said in a televised debate Sunday that he would not go against Catholic teachings on issues such as birth control.

Rebuffs 'Crookedness'

HK1804073092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 18 April 92

[By Cecil Morella]

[Text] Manila, April 18 (AFP)—Philippine church leader Jaime Cardinal Sin launched Sunday [as received] a crusade against presidential candidates Imelda Marcos and Eduardo Cojuangco, urging voters to reject the accomplices of the Marcos dictatorship.

"Reject in the coming elections candidates who oppressed and plundered our people or who were accomplices of the oppressors and looters when such candidates have not shown repentance by appropriate acts of reparation," he said in a pastoral letter to be read in Manila churches on Easter Sunday.

"Those who practised crony capitalism during the past regime to the detriment of our people have no place in the high public offices of our land. To vote for them into office would be to share in their crookedness," he added.

While omitting to name names, his words were seen here as referring to the widow of the deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Cojuangco, his main business ally.

President Corazon Aquino's government has filed more than a hundred cases of graft against the two in connection with the alleged plunder of the national treasury by the the Marcos regime.

Imelda Marcos is doing badly in popular polls and is not given much chance of winning on May 11, but Cojuangco is seen as among the four frontrunners. Both are unrepentant apologists for the Marcos regime.

Aquino, who backs former defense secretary Fidel Ramos, has expressed concern over a possible Cojuangco victory and has pledged to convince House speaker Ramon Mitra to stand down and support Ramos.

Church positions carry a tremendous moral authority in this largely Roman Catholic nation.

It campaigned against fraud and terrorism in the disputed February 1986 snap presidential election, and later threw its support behind a popular revolt which forced Marcos into U.S. exile and put Aquino in power.

Sin's message, issued after three election-related pastoral letters by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, came amid reports that the right-wing Church of Christ (INK) has thrown its support behind Cojuangco.

The sect, which has never formally denied the report, has about three million adherents. It is puny in comparison to the Catholic church, but they tend to vote as a bloc and INK support is avidly sought by Filipino politicians.

Sin also admonished his flock "not to sell your votes," saying: "To do so is a sin, a betrayal of our country. If you sell your votes, the vote-buyers will sell our country for their own profit."

He said those who win by cheating or violence "will not be forgiven by God unless they surrender the position they have fraudulently gotten."

The cardinal did not endorse his choice, but said that "all other things being equal," voters should pick "the most qualified and the most competent," and especially those who have shown concern for the poor with concrete actions.

"But do not vote for a person who has opposed or, if elected, will oppose Catholic principles."

Ramos along with rival Jovito Salonga, are Protestants. The church firmly opposes artificial means of birth control, but none of the seven candidates have gone public in saying they will fight the church on that issue.

Aquino Defends Ramos

HK2004042692 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Apr 92 pp 1, 10

[By Cynthia Balana]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday defended former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos as her favored successor, saying he had made up for his role as chief implementor of martial law.

The President as reacting to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's pastoral letter, urging Catholic voters to reject "oppressors, plunderers ... (and their) accomplices" in the May 11 elections.

The letter, read in all churches yesterday, was also endorsed by the 36-member Presbyterial Council of the Manila archdiocese, which consists of influential clerics.

Church sources said the cardinal was referring to Imelda R. Marcos, the former strongman's widow, and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a close Marcos associate.

But critics took Sin's words to include Ramos, who enforced martial law as Constabulary chief under Marcos.

Marcos ruled by martial law from 1972 to 1981. He jailed former opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Ms. Aquino's husband who was later assassinated, and thousands of others.

Ms. Aquino told Malacanang reporters that there was nothing in Sin's pastoral message that was against Ramos.

"There is a phrase (in Sin's letter) that says 'except those who have not done any reparations.' And Secretary Ramos has done reparation in the sense that he was in EDSA and then during the coup attempts, he was for democracy. So I think he has made up for whatever shortcomings he had before," she said.

The President was referring to the 1986 uprising led by Ramos and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, which toppled Marcos and swept Ms. Aquino to power.

Ramos, standard-bearer of the Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats], also defended Ms. Aquino aginst six coup attempts launched by rightist rebels against her administration.

"I don't see anything wrong with (the pastoral letter). And I don't think it is against my candidate. So it's OK," she said.

The President did not comment on Sin's call for Catholic voters to give preference to Catholic candidates.

"All other things being equal," the cardinal said in his message, "give preference to those who not only respect but also espouse these (Catholic) principles."

Ramos and Sen. Jovito R. Salonga, who is also running for president under the Liberal Party-PDP Laban [Filipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength], are Protestants.

Sin's guidelines practically leave Catholic voters with only three choices for president: Vice President Salvador H. Laurel of the Nacionalista Party, Speaker Ramon V. Mitra of the Laban ng Demokratikong [Struggle of Democratic Filipinos] Pilipino and Miriam Defensor-Santiago of the People's Reform Party.

The Lakas-NUCD, meanwhile, said the Protestant churches are not endorsing any candidate but majority of its members will support Ramos.

Felipe Carino, secretary general of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, bared the position of the Protestant churches during their Easter sunrise Mass at the Rizal Park, the Lakas media bureau said.

Ramos and Salonga are members of the NCCP, which claims five million members.

As this developed, a member of Cojuangco's senatorial ticket expressed fear that Sin's latest blast against the Tarlac businessman "could provoke a crisis of disunity among the bishops and a show of defiance among the laity."

Francisco "Kit" Tatad, a senatorial candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition, said in a statement Sin's pastoral message "could prompt other bishops to issue their own pastoral letters that would reflect lack of a common voice in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and it could prompt members of the cardinal's own diocese to blithely ignore his advice and follow their own conscience."

"In the end, the cardinal's statement could hurt the unity of the Catholics before it could begin to hurt Cojuangco. And for what? For the desperate effort to boost the sagging stock of the cardinal's rumored candidate?" Tatad added.

Sin's pastoral letter followed reports that the Iglesia ni Cristo has decided to endorse Cojuangco and his ticket.

Lawyer Gabriel Villareal, Cojuangco's spokesman, said the cardinal's letter "cannot be referring to Mr. Cojuangco for he did not take part in the so-called oppression, plunder and crony capitalism of the past."

Villareal denied that Cojuangco was a Marcos crony, saying that the NPC [Nacionalista Party Coalition] standard-bearer has no behest loans.

Military Denies Procurement Irregularities

HK2104034092 Quezon City MALAYA in English 21 Apr 92 pp 1, 7

[By Noel Bartolome]

[Text] The military yesterday denied any irregularities in the procurement of British armored vehicles and Italian jet trainers, saying the P3 billion contracts were evaluated during the terms of three successive Armed Forces chiefs of staff.

Maj. Gen. Arturo Enrile, Army chief, and Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Acot, Air Force vice commander, denied charges made last week by rebel soldiers that the military rushed the procurement of 150 British Simba armored vehicles and 14 Italian S-211 trainer jets to raise campaign funds for administration candidate Fidel V. Ramos, Former defense chief.

Enrile said negotiations with the British manufacturer GKN for the purchase of the Simba vehicles started in 1988, during the term of Ramos as chief of staff. The talks continued after Ramos was succeeded by Renato de Villa who in turn was replaced by Rodolfo Biazon.

He said the purchase of the Simbas underwent the "strict scrutiny" of five Army commanding generals and the Army Weapons Board.

Enrile said the Simbas were "fully tested" by the British, and that they "fit very well" with the local terrain.

Under the contract with the Philippine Corp., local representative of GKN a plant will be set up to assemble the armored vehicles locally, Enrile said.

Enrile added that he was not aware if Antonio Lopa, a relative of President Aquino, had brokered the deal as alleged by rebel leaders.

Acot said the Air Force bought eight SF-260 jet trainers for $1.045 million each and six S-211 jets for $4.120 million each, not $5.56 million as reported.

Acot, former chief of the Clark Air Force Command, said the total package cost of $51.951 million includes training, packaging, technical representation and other components.

Rebels Charge Ramos

HK2004041192 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Rebel soldiers yesterday said the government has entered into two questionable deals worth over P3 billion [Philippine pesos] allegedly to raise campaign funds for administration candidate Fidel V. Ramos.

Gabriel Dimasupil, spokesman of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansand Makabansa [National Revolutionary Alliance], said Antonio Lopa, President Aquino's brother-in-law, brokered the purchase of 150 units of Simba armored vehicles from Great Britain worth $80 million.

He said the Simba is not battle-tested, and the units purchased by the defense department are not equipped with armaments and communication equipment.

"Ang mga sundalong sasakay dito ay parang mga guinea pigs o [The soldiers made to ride in these were like guinea pigs or....] experimental animals," he said.

Dimasupil also said six "overpriced" S-211 trainer jets were recently purchased by the Air Force despite the refusal of pilots to fly the Italian-made trainers after one figured in a crash where two pilots were killed. Eighteen jets previously purchased have been grounded, he said.

Dimasupil said the same jets, which were bought for $5.56 million each, were purchased by Singapore for only $1.5 million each. The training jets and other training equipment are worth $52 million, he added.

The rebels also said, a certain Catalino Tan, who has been supplying "sub-standard" combat supplies and equipment to the military, is one of the financiers of

Ramos' presidential bid. They said Tan is the sole supplier of uniforms, combat boots, local combat vehicles and equipment to the Armed Forces.

Col. Ernesto Carolina, AFP spokesman, said the purchase of the armored vehicles and the training jets were legal and advantageous to the military.

He said the Simbas were purchased bare because the military intends to have the armaments and communication equipment installed locally. This is cheaper than purchasing a fully-equipped armored vehicle, he said.

Carolina said Singapore got a lower price for the S-211 jets because it paid in cash while the Philippines got the jets on credit. He also denied the rebels' claims that pilots refuse to fly the S-211.

"The pilots want to fly the plane since all pilots want to try new aircraft," Carolina said.

Thailand

Suchinda Denies Charges Against War Record

BK2104005792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Apr 92 p A2

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday denied an allegation that he was responsible for the "friendly fire" which killed more than 10 Thai soldiers in the Vietnam War and warned his accuser to "watch your words".

Suchinda said the allegation by politican and ex-army officer Gen Siri Thiwaphan was untrue and libellous, he said.

"I could have sued Gen Siri but I regard him as a schoolmate," Suchinda said in an interview with reporters, adding as a warning to Siri: "Please watch your words next time,"

At a political rally in Nonthaburi province on Saturday, Siri, deputy leaer of the New Aspiration Party, claimed Suchinda's subordinates mistakenly killed more than 10 Thai soliders with artillery fire during the Vietnam War.

Siri said he himself was a member of a committee set up to investigate the incident, which allegedly took place in 1969 when Suchinda served as a lieutenant colonel commanding an artillery division.

Suchinda failed to take responsibility for the alleged incident although his battle allowances were subsequently cut, Siri alleged.

"What Gen Siri has said about me in connection with my participation in the Vietnam War does not have the slightest piece of truth," Suchinda said.

The new prime minister neither accepted nor denied the allegation on Sunday, saying only that he received military honours for his role in the Vietnam War.

Asked if he was concerned that the allegation would develop into a major political issue, Suchinda said; "I'm not afraid at all. My motto is that a man who does good will be paid his due."

Siri's charge also drew a strong reaction from Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who has succeeded Suchinda as army commander in chief.

Itsaraphong said Gen Suchinda's performance in the war had been highly lauded and recognized with medals that were awarded to him. The new army chief said he also served in the same area at that time.

Itsaraphong hit back at Siri, saying anyone who made such an accusation against Suchinda was "not a real soldier".

Asked whetehr he would talk to Siri about the allegation, Itsaraphong said:

"There's no need for me to talk with anybody about the matter." [passage omitted]

Kaset Says Military Does Not Want Coup

BK2104072592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, supreme commander and Air Force commander, this morning spoke to reporters about the ongoing demand outside the national assembly for an amendment to the Constitution, saying everything must be in line with democratic practice. He said:

[Begin recording] [Kaset] We want to see the administration of our country in line with democratic principles. I, in my capacity as national peace-keeping director, and the Army commander, in his capacity as peace-keeping director of Bangkok, have been trying to look at things with an attitude of compromise. We do not oppose any rally that is carried out within the democratic framework as long as it does not cause unrest in Bangkok and the provinces. I am in charge of security nationwide, while the Army commander is in charge of Bangkok.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you regard as unrest?

[Kaset] Last night's rally was organized in an orderly manner. We support all democratic acts. However, those who delivered speeches should avoid violating other people's private rights. The atmosphere last night was good.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think about the way the people expressed their view in this regard? Should they be further encouraged to do so?

[Kaset] We in the military are trying to develop the democratic system to the fullest extent. The military is one of the institutions that has been active in the adminstration of the country. You can ask the Army commander.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the government's stability be affected if such rallies continue?

[Kaset] The government itself will have to deal with any rally or any act that goes beyond the legal limits.

[Unidentified report] What do you think about M.R. Khukrit Pramot's statement that if the situation continues, there might be a coup d'etat in the next five months?

[Kaset] That is his opinion. I always reaffirm that our Armed Forces do not want to stage any coup unless the country is plunged into a state of confusion and unrest. There is probably no instution except the military to take care of the country. We have pledged to defend the country and the throne. [end recording]

Paper Reports Anti-Suchinda Protest Rally

BK2104004192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] More than 50,000 people yesterday joined Opposition parties in an open show of defiance against Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's "undemocratic" rise to the premiership.

At one point during a mass protest at the Royal Plaza last night, New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut challenged Gen Suchinda to resign with him as premier and opposition leader respectively and to contest an election in the same constituency to let the public decide.

More than 1,000 policemen in plain clothes or uniform were deployed at and around the rally site to maintain order. Traffic to the Royal Plaza was blocked off by a crowd estimated by Special Branch police at 36,000 and at 50,000 by other sources.

Apparently unperturbed by the size of the protest, Gen Suchinda accused Opposition parties of foul play, while Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin warned against unrest, saying he might take necessary steps to ensure peace and order.

"If they love democracy, they should play by the rules. Foul play outside Parliament is unfair," said Gen Suchinda, apparently referring to the Opposition parties.

He said the public could show their opposition by writing to him. But politicians should speak in Parliament.

"We have tried to follow the path of democracy. The parties that formed the Government have gone through the democratic process. Foul play could lead to a disturbance," ACM Kaset said.

"If there are demonstrations that cause traffic jams and disrupt people's lives I, in my capacity as commander of the Internal Peace-keeping Command, will order a stop to such activities. However, we will have to wait and see if they play by democratic rules," he said.

Leading members of the Democrat, Phalang Tham, Solidarity and New Aspiration parties took turns to lash out at what they see as Gen Suchinda's illegitimate rise to the premiership.

To ease tension, Gen Chawalit suggested National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong should use his power in the next 24 hours before the dissolution of the NPKC to tell His Majesty the King of the people's objection to Gen Suchinda's premiership.

The second option is for Gen Suchinda and Gen Chawalit to resign simultaneously, in their capacities as Prime Minister and opposition leader, after the audience with His Majesty.

Then Gen Suchinda and himself should contest the same constituency to let the people decide their choice, Gen Chawalit said.

He also called on the five coalition parties to withdraw their support for Gen Suchinda today to comply with the public's wish.

PDP [Palang Dharma Party] leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang, the first speaker of the evening, called on the younger generations of the military to tell their senior Gen Suchinda to "bow out now while there is still time to contemplate."

He also appealed to rally participants to lend sympathy to those with meager visibility of basic virtues like keeping one's word.

Before the elections, Gen Suchinda had declined to accept the top administrative post.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said Gen Suchinda should listen to the popular voice—the one objecting to his premiership.

The PDP leader suggested that signatures of rally participants be collected to oppose Gen Suchinda as prime minister.

Former House Speaker Uthai Phimchaichon, the secretary-general of the Solidarity Party, cast doubt over how the Suchinda Cabinet could be sworn in before His Majesty.

"The Cabinet should feel ashamed to attend the swearing in ceremony. With no credibility left, what can they offer at the ceremony?" Mr Uthai said.

Although Gen Suchinda's rise to premier is constitutionally justifiable, the Constitution was written by the National Peace-keeping Council, he said.

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai vowed to continue pressing House Speaker Athit Urairat over the choice of a non-elected prime minister.

Responding to remarks by ACM Kaset, who described yesterday's rally as not playing by the rules, Mr Chuan said the Opposition "is not playing any game".

"We are serious," he said, adding the elected representatives have a role to play both inside and outside the House.

"The job of the elected representatives is to inform the people of the truth, and the fact that we have to meet the

public directly here is because state-controlled media restrict the freedom of expression," said the veteran MP.

Mr Chuan said that peaceful public gatherings are among the fundamental rights guaranteed by any constitution, and yesterday's rally is therefore legal.

He also criticised Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] leader Narong Wongwan for his submission to Gen Suchinda.

Mr Chuan said he wished to ask Mr Narong how he could have the heart "to wai [pay respect to] someone who blatantly robbed him of the premiership".

Come July, Thailand will celebrate the 60th anniversary of demcoracy, and the Thai people should take this opportunity to reflect on their desire for democracy and not what the NPKC imposed on them, he said.

At one point during the rally, NAP [New Aspiration Party] spokesman Chaturon Chaisaeng took Prinya Tewanarumitkun, leader of the Students' Federation of Thailand to the stage to destroy copies of forged statements.

There were two versions of the statements, disguised as releases from SFT.

One called for Gen Suchinda to resign, and the other condemned four opposition parties and those on a hunger strike against Gen Suchinda being premier.

When the rally ended at 9.30 p.m., participants lit candles to show their wish for an elected prime minister.

Some of the participants proceeded from the rally to visit those taking part in the hunger strike in front of Parliament.

Paper Profiles New Ministers

BK1804035492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Apr 92 p 6

[Text] **Pongphon Adireksan**

The Chat Thai MP of Saraburi graduated from a university in Pennsylvania, the United States and obtained a master's degree in international relations from American University in Washington DC.

Mr Pongphon, 50, worked at the Central Intelligence Department for six years upon his return from the US before quitting to pursue private business.

The eldest son of Chat Thai advisory chairman Praman Adireksan was first elected an MP of Saraburi in 1983.

Three years later, though defeated in a general election, Mr Pongphon became director-general of the Express Transport Organisation under the Chat Thai quota.

The outspoken politician claimed he had turned the ETO from a loss-ridden to profitable state enterprise since 1987.

This is the first time Mr Pongphon, who has no experience in political affairs, was appointed a Cabinet member.

Somphong Amonwiwat

The Samakkhi Tham [STP] MP of Chiang Mai is married to Petchari Thechapaibun, daughter of banking tycoon Udane Thechapaibun.

Mr Somphong graduated secondary education from Amnuay Silp School and obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration from the United States.

The 51-year-old politician was sales manager of Thai Amarit Brewery Co for about 10 years before he was promoted to be managing director of the the distillery company. He later became a director of Kloster Beer and several other firms.

First elected in 1986 in Chon Buri, Mr Sompong used to be a member of the defunct National Democracy Party and a protege of influential Somchai Khunpluem, better known as Kamnan Poh.

He became secretary-general of the defunct Ruam Thai Party for a short period in the following year.

This is the first time Mr Somphong was appointed a Cabinet member.

Pol Lt-Gen [Police Lieutenant General] Wirot Pao-in
The non-elected minister graduated from Pathum Khongkha grade school before entering the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in the powerful Class 5 led by Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

Pol Lt-Gen Wirot, 59, was chief police inspector and then a deputy police superintendent in Metropolitan Bangkok before he was promoted a deputy Bangkok South police commissioner in 1985. He later became deputy Metropolitan police commissioner and then Metropolitan police commander.

Chatchawan Chomphudaeng

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Roi-et graduated a law bachelor and was elected for the first time in 1975. The 47-year-old, three-time politician used to be leader of the defunct Social Democratic Force Party before he joined STP.

Samphan Loetnuwat

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Chiang Rai graduated a business administration bachelor from Western Pacific University, the United States. The 49-year-old politician used to be MP of Bangkok under the Democrat Party in 1986 before he joined the so-called January 10 Group which was transformed into Prachachon Party.

Mr Samphan, who used to be an adviser to deputy interior minister Wira Musikapong, was among key STP executives who had recruited other politicians for the new party. Called "a political broker," Mr Samphan has coordinated the formation of the coalition Government.

Kamchai Ruangkanchanaset

The Social Action MP of Surin graduated a master in administration from Ball State University in the United States. The 47-year-old, three-time MP used to be secretary to Prime Minister's Office Minister Chaisiri Ruangkanchanaset, his elder brother.

Suchat Tancharoen

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Chachoengsao graduated a master in business administration. The three-time, 34-year-old MP, who is also STP spokesman, used to be in the Prime Minister's Secretariat and assistant secretary to the Public Health Minister.

Ruangwit Lik

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Kamphaeng Phet graduated from Bang Saen College. The four-time MP is close to senior STP adviser Buntheng Thongsawatdi since they were both with the Social Action, United Democratic, Ruam Thai and Solidarity parties. The 52-year-old politician, and STP founder, used to be adviser to deputy prime minister Buntheng and adviser to the Agriculture Minister.

Chawalit Osathanukroh

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Khon Kaen graduated from Bangkok Technical College. The three-time, 58-year-old MP used to be chairman of the House Committee for Communications and one of the key STP executives representing the Northeast region.

Charun Ngamphichet

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Chon Buri graduated from Cholarat-amrung School. The four-time, 51-year-old politician is a protege of the Khamnan Poh (Somchai Khunpluem) and used to be assistant secretary to the Commerce Minister.

Mr Charun is a key STP executive who quit SAP and formed the Democracy Party before joining STP.

Phuanglek Bunchiang

The Chat Thai MP of Phayao graduated with a business administration degree. The five-time, 42-year-old woman politician used to be secretry to the Industry Minister, an assistant secretary to the Communications Minister and secretary to Chat Thai secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-acha when he was also interior minister.

Yut Angkinan

The Chat Thai MP of Phetchaburi graduated from Debsirin High. the four-time, 57-year-old MP used to be secretary to the Justice Minister. Mr Yut is one of the three Angkinan brothers who used to monopolise the three MP seats in Phetchaburi.

Kittisak Hattasongkrho

The Chat Thai MP of Udon Thani graduated from an aviation course in the United States. The five-time, 43-year-old MP was sued by ex-MP Somsuan Srinok on adultery charges early this year.

Sombat Sisurin

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Surin earned a bachelor degree from Leeds University and a master's degree from Birmingham University in Britain. Mr Sisurin is a four-time, 46-year-old MP.

Phairot Kruarat

The Chat Thai MP of Si Sa Ket graduated from Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Teachers' College. He is a five-time, 69-year-old MP.

Ngoen Bunsupha

The Samakkhi Tham MP of Saraburi graduated from primary school. The four-time, 59-year-old MP used to be an influential Kamnan in Saraburi.

Somsak Thepsuthin

The Social Action MP of Sukhothai graduated in engineering. The four-time, 37-year-old MP used to be with the Prime Minister's Secretariat and secretary to SAP leader Montri Phongphanit when the latter was communications minister.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong

The Chat Thai leader and MP of Samut Prakan graduated secondary education from Amnuay Silp School and the Navy Academy in 1957 before entering the Air Force's Aviation School.

ACM Sombun later graduated from Randolf Air Force Base in the United States, the Wing Commanders School and the Air Force Staff College.

ACM Sombun was a mission commander under the United Nations command in the Korean War and then a close aide to an operations flight commander. In 1975, he became a close aide to the Defence Minister and then a director of the Air Force Officers School.

The 60-year-old Chat Thai leader was a military attache at the Thai embassies to Japan and South Korea before being appointed commander of the Air Force Transport Department in 1984.

Three years later, ACM Sombun became governor of the Airports Authority of Thailand after he had been president of the profitable Thai Airways International national flag carrier.

He is married to Nongyao Miraksa and has two sons and one daughter.

Paper on 'Cabinet of Mediocrity'

BK1804052892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 92 p A6

[Editorial: "A Modest Cabinet, With Much To Be Modest About"]

[Text] The Suchinda Cabinet unveiled last night could best be called a Cabinet of mediocrity.

Hours before the line-up was announced, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun told a group of well-wishers about his "determination" to reduce corruption in government. "I didn't invest anything in coming to power, therefore I'm under no pressure to recoup an investment," he said.

Too bad his Cabinet includes several questionable figures who did invest a great deal of money in winning their elections. Their return to power suggests that Suchinda has never truly been concerned with the corruption problem, either now or when he led the Feb 23 coup in 1991 to topple the Chatchai administration.

Three of Suchinda's five deputy premiers, Montri Phongphanit, Samak Suntharawet and Narong Wongwan were among 35 former ministers from the Chatchai administration investigated by a committee set up by the coup-makers. Samak and Narong were cleared, but Montri, leader of the Social Action Party, was charged with accumulating wealth through abuse of power, and Bt336.5 [baht] million of his assets was confiscated by the committee.

As leader of Prachakon Thai Party with only seven House seats, Samak is obviously in the autumn of his political career. During the election campaign, he played down so-called "Chamlong Fever" in Bangkok and vowed he would step down as party leader if his candidates won fewer than five of the 35 House seats in the capital. Among Bangkok voters, however, "Chamlong Fever" continued unabated and people went out in force to vote for Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang's Phalang Tham candidates. Thirty-two of them won in the election. Only one Prachakon Thai candidate besides Samak was elected in Bangkok. (Another Bangkok seat went to a Democrat.) After the election, Samak did offer his resignation but his followers "asked" him to stay on as their leader.

The public humilitation Narong went through was much worse. Narong was tentatively nominated for the premiership by the five-party coaliton. His nomination immediately ran aground following a disclosure by the US Government that Narong's visa application was rejected last July because of suspicion that he was involved in drug trafficking. Narong denied any involvement in the illicit trade.

Under mysterious circumstances, the coalition, led by Narong's own Samakkhi Tham Party, soon turned to "offer" the premiership to Suchinda, the army chief and supreme commander. Narong has not yet explained to his party or to the electorate why the coalition dumped him in favour of Suchinda. Suchinda's own explanation is now well-known: pressing circumstances forced him to go back on his word—a "great sacrifice of his integrity"—and accept the premiership to "save the country" from political chaos and unite the military in the face of some unnamed threat.

Two politicians from the Chat Thai Party who were charged with being "unusually wealthy" by the assets investigation panel, Watthana Atsawahem and Sano Thianthong, were appointed PM's Office minister and deputy communications minister respectively. Watthana gave up the four million baht confiscated by the committee instead of appealing the ruling and trying to prove his innocence in court. Sano is appealing the confiscation of Bt62.7 million of his assets.

What if Montri or Sano lose their appeals? A Supreme Court ruling against them would automatically disqualify them from House membership and national political office for life.

At first Chat Thai wanted control of the Justice Ministry. But Suchinda forced Chat Thai to swap the justice portfolio with Samakkhi Tham's science and technology post at the last minute to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. Samakkhi Tham has only one "unusually wealthy" politician in its fold, former finance minister Pramuan Saphawasu, who has declined to accept any political office while appealing the confiscation of Bt70.7 million of his assets.

Another controversial figure is Santi Chaiwiratana, a deputy agriculture minister from Samakkhi Tham. Santi was with Social Action when he served as deputy commerce minister in earlier Chatchai administrations. He was censured in the House twice; persistent accusations of corruption and abuse of power prompted Chatchai to drop Santi from the Cabinet. That was when Santi broke with his party and claimed he and other Social Action ministers were under pressure to make money for the party's campaign coffers. He indicated that Montri at Communications and Suibin Pinkhayan at Commerce were the main fund raisers. (Subin, who is appealing the confiscation of Bt608 million of his assets, lost his reelection bid in Chiang Mai.)

Chat Thai secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-acha is now communications minister, reportedly at the urging of his followers who trust him more than their new party leader, ACM Sombun Rahong Sombun was given a deputy premiership and the education portfolio, which had earlier been reserved for Banhan.

Suchinda at first intended to name "neutral" outsiders to run key economic ministries. It turned out that three key economic ministries—commerce, industry and agriculture—came under control of Samakkh Tham alone; leaving communications to Chat Thai. Suchinda ended up with only Suthi Singsane retaining the finance portfolio, and M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun in the deputy commerce minister's post.

External relations will probably receive a low priority. The new foreign minister is Pongphon Adireksan, a first-time minister from Chat Thai, who is a novice at international affairs when compared with his predecessor Asa Sarasin. Pongpho received the foreign minister's post largely on behalf of his father, Chat Thai chief adviser Gen Praman, who is appealing the confiscation of Bt139 million of his assets.

The records of many of Suchinda's Cabinet members can hardly be called clean. It is also well known that most of these senior politicians were assigned ministerial posts because of their political clout rather than their merit, honesty, or experience.

Since Suchinda clearly had the final say but still brought such questionable personalities into his Cabinet, he must be held personally responsible for the results of his decision.

Fighting corruption requires sustained, cohesive teamwork. Putting the Suchinda Cabinet in charge of this task is like asking cats to guard the fish-bowl.

Paper Discusses 'Compromise' Cabinet

BK1804015292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 92 pp A1-A2

[From the Political Desk]

[Text] As it turned out yesterday, the shape of the Suchinda Cabinet clearly reflects a great degree of compromise between the new prime minister's wish for the administration to project an acceptable image and the political need to retain his fragile political support.

Despite his public remarks that he cared more about the grassroots' persistent problems than the stability of his government, Premier Gen Suchinda Khraprayun could not escape the political fact that stability comes first.

The difficulty in striking a balance between the two factors is clearly seen from the fact that in all 50 Cabinet slots that have been filled, the prime minister could bring only nine non-elected outsiders, including himself, into the new line-up.

Even more, his ability to call the shots on the economic side, which he publicly said was more important than his political agenda, is also in doubt given the fact that the only economic ministry under his effective control would be the Finance Ministry headed by finance expert Suthi Singsane.

He has a certain degree of control at the Commerce Ministry, though, with the appointment of his hand-picked man, M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun, as deputy commerce minister in charge of exports and international trade relations.

Other key economic portfolios, meanwhile, have been placed under politicians: the Agriculture Ministry, under Samakkhi Tham deputy leader Phinit Chantharasurin; the Industry Ministry, under Samakkhi Tham deputy leader Somphong Amonwiwat; and the Communications Ministry, under Chat Thai Secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-acha.

The prime minister's wish to avoid the embarrassing situation of joining the same Cabinet as the politicians who had their "unusual" assets ordered seized by the Assets Investigation Committee, the brainchild of the National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC) in which the former supreme commander and army chief played a leading role, has certainly not materialized.

Initial efforts to bar them from the Cabinet were obvious. But in the end the best he could to do was to allocate three less important posts to three out of the five under consideration—Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit as deputy prime minister, deputy Chat Thai leader Sanoh Thienthong as deputy communications minister, and deputy Chat Thai leader Watthana Atsawahem as PM's Office minister.

Suchinda's men reportedly raised objections to Watthana's nomination to the Cabinet post, trying to push for his acceptance of the post of PM's Office minister. Apparently, the prime minister finally came to terms with the fact that the purview of the elected deputy interior minister would be determined by Interior Minister Anan Kalintha, who was appointed under Suchinda's quota of non-elected outsiders.

Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan, pulled down from the race for the premiership by concerns over his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, is another case in point. Some have previously urged that if Narong could not be nominated prime minister, he should not be nominated to a Cabinet post until the doubts have been cleared.

For whatever reason though, Narong, who had been eyeing the agriculture portfolios, was elevated at the last minute to become deputy prime minister, a higher but less powerful post.

Two allegedly unusually-rich politicians, Chat Thai advisory chairman Pol Gen [Police General] Praman Adireksan and Samakkhi Tham senior MP Pramuan Saphawasu, were left out.

With traces of compromise seen here and there, the newly-unveiled Cabinet certainly does not provide a significant boost to the image of the new administration, already tainted by the premier's military background, suspicions that the military was behind his ascension to power and a significant level of general anti-military sentiment these days.

The compromises also underline the restrictions hemming in the new prime minister. Among them is the fact that the five government parties have a very slim majority in the House, with only 195 MPs, and the fact that the politicians with questionable credibility are still powerful brokers in their parties.

Another visible constraint is the fact that it will be extremely difficult for the premier to bring in any of the political parties enjoying a good image.

The Phalang Tham and the Democrat Parties have taken a clear political stand against joining a Cabinet under a non-elected prime minister while New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut is seen as potential adversary by Suchinda's military supporters.

Looking ahead, the task of the prime minister appears immense, and if stability is the major concern, it would largely be determined by the following variables, including the premier's own ability and acumen.

—His ability to project a new image of a civilian prime minister.

Being an honest prime minister is not adequate under the present circumstances where anti-military sentiment is persistent.

He was apparently aware of it when he urged his army supporters to consider him a civilian, but it is doubtful whether he will be able to consider himself more of a civilian than a militaryman.

More important are doubts about his ability to convince the public with deeds that he does not consider himself as belonging to the military clan now holding power in the Armed Forces who ironically are his strongest supporters so far.

The premier is set to face more serious image problems if he gets mixed up trying to protect the image of the military and his group of military supporters.

—His ability to prove himself a competent prime minister at a time when economic problems, the people's living standards, and development problems are the major woes of the country.

He is restricted by having been forced to allow politicians to control key economic ministries. His room for maneuvering lies with his powers as prime minister and the chance of mobilizing bureaucrats directly on major policy missions.

As difficult as putting his military supporters in place is his task to curb possible corruption and abuse of power in his own administration while maintaining the fragile political support in the House.

—The ability of his government parties to control MPs when government-sponsored bills are deliberated in the House. The 270-member Senate may form a base of parliamentary support for the government but then it can only participate in deliberating on no-confidence motions and royal decrees.

—His ability to make compromises in the Armed Forces.

The prime minister is assured of solid military support for the moment, but a turning point could come shortly before the annual military reshuffle in October next year, when Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin reaches his mandatory retirement age.

A compromise solution has apparently been prepared for the crucial period. Kaset may replace Anan when he leaves the Armed Forces. Yet the relationship between him and the prime minister would still be in doubt during that crucial period and even afterwards if Kaset wants to follow in his predecessor's footsteps.

Obviously the new prime minister's challenges are immense and one major misstep may cause his fall from the tightrope on which he is so carefully treading.

Vietnam

19th Joint Search for MIA's Reported

BK2004111492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Vietnam and the United States are to conduct 19th and last search for remains of the Americans still listed as missing in the Vietnam war. The joint effort is described by Colonel (Jack Donovan), commander of the U.S. air line office [as heard] in Hanoi as the most efficient undertaking to date. It involves 58 U.S. military experts and 75 Vietnamese and will cover three-fourths of the country.

Sixteen joint operations have been made since 1988. According to Colonel (Donovan), during this month-long joint search, one military recovery team will excavate aircraft crash sites near Hanoi and Haiphong while another works in the central coast provinces.

Three investigation teams will [words indistinct] and interview witnesses at priority sites in northern and central Vietnam.

Malaysian Prime Minister on 'Bigger ASEAN'

BK2004052992 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0424 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi, April 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia believes that a bigger ASEAN comprising all the 10 Southeast Asian countries will provide a truly formidable force for peace, progress and stability in the entire region, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Sunday night.

"We in Malaysia envision the establishment of a prosperous community of Southeast Asian nations linked together by a strong commitment to cooperate for peace, progress and stability, where people travel freely to each other's country, where trade and investment flows with little or no restriction, and where common institutions exist to train our scholars and scientists to be on par with those of developed countries," he added.

Dr. Mahathir was speaking at a dinner given in his honour by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the Cultural Palace here.

ASEAN at present comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Other Southeast Asian countries which are non-members are Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar [Burma] and Kampuchea [Cambodia].

The prime minister said Malaysia was encouraged by the fact that Vietnam and Laos were ready to sign the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

He hoped that it would not be too long before both countries could be full members of ASEAN.

Expressing his happiness that the days of confrontation and conflict were now over with the Cambodian issue settled, Dr. Mahathir said both countries could now devote their efforts towards the betterment of their people's lives.

Mahathir Visits Mausoluem

BK2004161392 Hanoi VNA in English 1554 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, Mrs. Mahathir and their entourage paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum here this morning.

The head of the office of Vietnam's Council of Ministers Tran Xuan Gia and Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam M. Parameswaran attended the wreath-laying ceremony. Prime Minister Mahathir and his party visited the late president's house and office where the Malaysian leader was presented with a badge of the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh as souvernir.

Premiers Stress Investment

BK2004162192 Hanoi VNA in English 1602 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed met with more than 200 Vietnamese and Malaysian businessmen here this afternoon.

Mr. Le Van Kiet, minister of trade and tourism, represented the possiblities of cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia such as the cultivation of rubber and oil-bearing trees, processing of agricultural products, livestock breeding, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, maritime transportation, aviation and tourism.

Mr. Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, talked about the fundamental issues of foreign investment in Vietnam and the amendments of its juridical documents aimed at creating favourable conditions for activities of foreign investors.

During the meeting, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed stressed on the importance and necessity of the investment cooperation between the two countries they unanimously held that Malaysia and Vietnam have favourable conditions for investment cooperation and trade, and that they constitute one of important factors to increase prosperity of each country.

Mahathir Hosts Reception

BK2004162592 Hanoi VNA in English 1607 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and his wife gave this evening a grand banquet in honour of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and his wife.

Also present at the banquet were many Vietnamese ministers and other senior officials.

Prime Minister Mahathir and Chairman Kiet raised toasts to the further development of the cooperative relations between Vietnam and Malaysia, and to peace and prosperity in the region as well as in the world.

Later host and guest attended a performance given by the Malaysian cultural team which is accompanying Prime Minister Mahathir on his Vietnam visit.

Cordial Talks Detailed

BK2004163592 Hanoi VNA in English 1602 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Talks were held at the Presidential Palace this morning between a Vietnamese Government delegation led by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and a visiting Malaysian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed.

Present at the talks on the Malaysian side were Ahmad Badawi, minister of foreign affairs; Samy Vellu, minister of Energy, Telecommunication and Post; Mrs. Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry; Ramli Ngah Talib, chief minister of the state of Perak Darul Redzuan; Osman Aroff, chief minister of the state of Kedah Darul Aman; Khalil Yaakob, chief minister of the state of Pahang Darul Makmur; Koh Tsu Koon, chief minister of the state of Pulau Pinang; and other high-ranking officials.

On the Vietnamese side were Nguyen Manh Cam, foreign minister; Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; Le Van Kiet, minister of trade and tourism; Bui Danh Luu, minister of transport, communication and post; Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry; Cao Si Kiem, governor of the State Bank; Tran Xuan Gia, director of the Office of the Council of Ministers; and other senior offcials.

The two sides reviewed the implementation of the agreement reached during Chaiman Vo Van Kiet's visit to Malaysia (from January 20-23, 1992). The two sides noted with satisfaction that since then the relations between the two countries have made big progress both in depth and width.

The two countries have increased the exchange of delegations specializing in investment cooperation, transport and communication, post, agriculture, public health, and other fields. These delegations included ministers and senior officials, businessmen in different fields.

The two countries signed an agreement on maritime cooperation, and opened the Kuala Lumpur-Hanoi air link. The two sides decided that on this occasion they will sign agreements on economic, scientific and technological cooperation on post and telecomunication cooperation, and a memorandum of understanding on Malaysia's technical aid to Vietnam worth USd [U.S. dollars] 700,000. The two sides also agreed to have early negotiations for agreements on double taxation, on commerce, on tourist, cultural and sport cooperation to strengthen the relations between the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern, and expressed their determination to strive for a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and development.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Premier Mahathir Mohamed expressed their belief that with the two countries' determination the multi-faceted friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and Malaysia will be further developed. The talks took place in an atmosphere of openness, cordiality and mutual trust.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Businessmen

BK2104063292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0328 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By Abdul Rahman Sulaiman]

[Text] Hanoi, April 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Vietnam has pledged that it would not nationalise foreign enterprises but instead do everything possible to encourage the inflow of investments from abroad.

To-date, the country has even amended its Constitution aimed at not only giving more incentives to foreign investors but also protecting them, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet told Malaysian businessmen at a dialogue session here Monday.

The session, attended by about 107 top Malaysian businessmen and almost an equal number of their Vietnamese counterparts, was jointly chaired by Vo Van Kiet and Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, here on a five-day official visit to Vietnam.

Vo Van Kiet said although the initial stages of Vietnam's economic reconstruction faced certain problems, the government was determined to overcome these constraints in order to create a more favourable and profitable investment climate.

Van Kiet listed the initial constraints as bureaucratic red tape and infrastructural inadequancy.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia was ever prepared to assist in Vietnam's development and economic reconstruction.

He added: "We are not here to sell things or merely to make money but to promote co-operation for a long term mutual benefit.

"We believe that a stable and prosperous Vietnam will make for a stable Southeast Asia which will also benefit the two countries."

He was confident that this would make the region the strongest in the world.

To-date, the Vietnamese authorities have granted 10 licences for investment worth US$78 million to Malaysians.

Le Quang Dao-Led Delegation Leaves for Japan

BK1904074292 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Chairman Le Quang Dao today left Hanoi for an official visit to Japan at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives Yoshio Sakurauchi. He is accompanied by Tran Do, head of the Commission for Culture and Education, Tran Hanh, member of the Commission for External Relations, and Mau Thi Bich Phanh, member of the Council of Nationalities, of the National Assembly.

Arrives, Meets Michio Watanabe

BK2104061792 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—Japan's foreign minister Michio Watanabe on Monday told the chairman of Vietnam's national assembly, Mr. Le Quang Dao that Japan supported Vietnamese economic reforms, foreign ministry offcials were quoted as saying.

Mr. Dao, vice-president of Vietnam's State Council, arrived in Japan on Sunday for a week-long official visit.

Watanabe said Japan was ready to help mediate normalisation of Vietnam-U.S. relations, officials said.

Watanabe said Japan wanted to "do whatever it can" to facilitate the normalization of diplomatic relations between Washington and Hanoi, officials said.

Mr. Dao was quoted as saying that Vietnam welcomed Japan's mediatory efforts.

"We hope for the normalisation as soon as possible," Dao told Watanabe.

SRV Delegate Addresses ESCAP Beijing Meeting

BK2004033992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan asserts Vietnam's determination to continue its process of renewal, expand relations with China, and strengthen regional cooperation for the sake of peace and development.

Mr Vu Khoan, the Vietnamese head delegate, was addressing the 48th session of the UN Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific being held in Beijing with the participation of 50 countries and 50 international organizations.

Vo Tran Chi Speaks at Women's Day Meeting

BK1004074592 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 6 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Speech by Vo Tran Chi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, at a 5 March 1992 Ho Chi Minh City function marking the 82d International Women's Day and the 1952d anniversary of the Trung Sisters-led Uprising]

[Text] Dear comrade veteran revolutionaries; dear comrade delegates; dear mothers and sisters: Today, on International Women's Day and the Trung Sisters-led Uprising Day, the Nam Bo Women's Museum and the Ho Chi Minh City Women's Association take the initiative in organizing a function under the "Women's Dignity and Preservation of National Culture" theme. The function has been warmly welcomed by local women's representatives of all walks of life.

This function is useful, practical, and praiseworthy. It shows that local women have attached great importance to and have shown deep concern for one of the burning and strategically important issues now facing the nation, namely the need to preserve and promote our nation's precious cultural, moral, and spiritual values, especially now that we have shifted our economy to the market-oriented mechanism, have applied an "open-door" policy, and have adopted diversified measures to expand our relations with the outside world.

This function also indicates that together with the various social organizations and mass societies, the Ho Chi Minh City Women's Association has begun to renovate its operating procedures and the contents of its programs of action aimed at bringing about practical results and meeting women's sentiments, aspirations, rights, and duties toward the nation.

On behalf of the city party committee, may I avail myself of the warm, cordial atmosphere created by this traditional festival to extend my cordial regards and good wishes to all mothers and sisters.

On behalf of the city party organization and local compatriots of all walks of life, I would like to warmly commend the Vietnam Women's Union and local women's union chapters for their great efforts and important contributions to renovate the nation and the city to make the people rich and the country powerful and also to bring about happiness to all families and women.

Dear mothers, sisters, and comrades: Together with the entire nation, our city has initiated a movement for revolutionary deeds aimed at applying the seventh party congress resolution to life and at effecting important changes to help the country overcome difficulties and firmly follow a chosen path. Apart from new opportunities and new prospects, we also have to face many difficulties and challenges, especially when our national economy has not yet extricated itself from a crisis, the former Soviet Union has collapsed, socialism has seriously crumbled in a number of countries, and the imperialist and hostile forces have resorted to extremely perfidious, wicked schemes aimed at undermining our efforts on many fronts.

To secure permanent conditions for our people to live and work in peace after several decades of a protracted and fierce war and being prompted by "Vietnam's desire to befriend all goodwill nations," we have broadened our trade ties with other countries. A shift of the economy to the market-oriented mechanism and our efforts to broaden relations with the outside world will certainly create conditions for our business activities to take off in the years to come, and henceforth, will effect important changes in the life of the nation as a whole. Whatever the scale of our efforts to broaden and diversify our relations with the outside world, we must always firmly maintain independence and sovereignty and must not surrender our nation and people to anybody in return for money. The objective of our "open-door" economic policy is to help develop the national economy instead of destroying it. The same thing is true with cultural exchanges. The purpose of our "open-door" cultural exchange policy is to selectively collect the quintessence of mankind's culture and use it to supplement and enrich our national culture and not to get rid of the national culture and replace it with a mixed, enslaved culture.

As we all know, culture forms the base of a nation and is the crystallization of that nation's moral and spiritual values as well as the quality, characters, and sentiments of its people. All these attributes have been accumulated, preserved, and developed from one generation to another. They are a priceless heritage and an incomparable and irreplaceable asset. If a nation loses this, it will certainly be in danger of extermination. We take great pride in our national culture because it has been preserved and developed for more than 4,000 years from the time under King Hung Vuong to the Ho Chi Minh era. It is that very national culture built upon moral and spiritual values which has given the Vietnamese people enough strength and resolve to undergo the fiercest and most devastating wars in history. Those moral and spiritual values have been reflected in expressions like "rather die than be slaves" and "nothing is more valuable than independence and freedom." They have also been manifested through our people's spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, their eagerness to struggle for perfection and to avoid wickedness, as well as their traditions of great solidarity, compassion, loyalty, and so forth. It is difficult to find the right expressions to describe our people's extremely rich moral values which have been demonstrated through the most vivid and most marvelous good examples set by our Vietnamese mothers and women as a whole. Some 1,952 years ago, in

avenging the deaths of their husbands and to fulfill their duty toward the nation, the Trung Sisters initiated an uprising against the aggressors. Defeated, they committed suicide by throwing themselves into the Hat River, "preferring to die a glorious death than to lead a life of humiliation!" Such determination, sentiments, and blood have all been passed on to many generations. That is why the names of Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Vo Thi Sau, Ut Tich, Mother Ranh of Cu Chi District, and Mother Suot of Quang Binh Province have been recorded in the history of the anti-U.S. struggle. Thanks to their heroic spirit and traditions of indomitability, loyalty, and diligence, countless Vietnamese mothers have endured untold difficulties and challenges to save time for their husbands and children to fight against the enemy, have fought shoulder to shoulder with their loved ones in that struggle, and have given birth to and fostered many heroic generations, thus contributing to further enhancing the prestige of our nation and people.

Nowadays, in building the economy, the situation has somewhat changed but the cultural, ethical, and spiritual values can be neither changed nor lost. On the contrary, the wider the door is open for wind to blow in, the steadier must be the pillars of the house. Otherwise, the house will collapse. For this very reason, the preservation of national culture, ethical values, and national traditions and spirit must be a pressing issue to every member of the nation no matter what position he might occupy.

In recent years, the evils of corruption, under-the-counter dealings, illicit enrichment, licentious lifestyle, waste, debauchery and seeking temporary material wealth by embezzling the country's assets are at risk of spreading and developing in the society and have become great cause of concern for honest people. The decadence of cultural, ethical, and spiritual values of the nation is alarming.

We cannot blame either the market mechanism or the open-door policy for this situation. With a very scrupulous attitude, we must admit our faults which involve the cultural management; organizational, judiciary, educational, and social agencies; and so forth. Temptation of material wealth and immediate profits has cooled off our eagerness and blurred our sight and prevented us from intercepting the noxious ingredients of other cultures which are polluting our environment and causing indignation and discord in the general public. Decadent and reactionary cultural works are flowing into our country under many forms such as beer bars, dimly lit coffee shops, and brothels disguised as restaurants. They are resulting in many heart-broken parents; destroying ethical values, good customs, and mores; and depraving countless people, especially the young generation. In our city now, quite a number of youths have become indifferent to ideals and their responsibility as citizens and children in families. They live all day in the streets, donning bizarre attire, speaking and singing outlandishily, and treating one another very strangely and not conforming to ethics and national sentiments. Quite a number of people have turned their backs on national culture, considering it some sort of antique, out of fashion, and no longer relevant to the open-door era! Just imagine what our society would be if this number of people increases every day.

For this very reason, we welcome the organization of activities by the women's union to discuss practical and effective measures to help preserve national culture, and resolutely condemn and boycott noxious foreign culture. I think that every union member and every family is responsible for and plays an extremely important role in many of the tasks to be done. Playing the role of the mainstay in the families, you, mothers and sisters have a very great responsibility for educating children. Of course, you must primarily set good examples for your children to follow and to learn from you. We take care of providing daily food and clothing for our children. Nevertheless, it is more important that we take care of giving them good and healthy sentiments, ethics, and dignity. It should be noted that torn clothes can be mended or replaced by new ones, but it is difficult to mend a torn soul and bad ethics.

Dear mothers, sisters, and comrades: As I just said above, in our cultural heritage the ethical and spiritual values of our nation constitute very valuable assets that are our solidarity, love, and mutual support in the national community. Our national history and our popular literature have witnessed many examples of sacrifice for the great cause and the happiness of people, especially poor and ill-fated people. Our Vietnamese people cherish their traditional love and integrity. Such famous slogans as "friends in need, friends indeed" and "love people like oneself" have become the ethics, mores, and valuable traditions of our nation.

Humanitarian and charitable activities constitute the core of social work. They are significant not only in the present situation of the country but also when the country becomes prosperous. These activities are not merely significant from the economic standpoint but are also vivid manifestations of everyone's love and responsibility for the community. To build a generation with a high sense of humanity and responsibility for the ups and downs of the community is one of the main tasks to safeguard and preserve the fine cultural, ethical, and sentimental values, the precious assets of the nation. Money is necessary, but the gauge to measure human value is sentiment and personality, not money. For this very reason, we treasure and love those who have almost sacrificed themselves for social work and have relentlessly engaged in humanitarian operations without waiting for any assignment or order, prompted only by the impulse of their own hearts.

On the occasion of this year's 8 March anniversary, I suggest that the city women's union launch a vigorous and broad social movement involving all religious and lay people of Vietnamese and Chinese origins in both rural and urban areas to alleviate the sufferings of unfortunate people by proving their humanity.

The party, state, and people of the city will be forever grateful for these noble tasks considering them examples of traditional ethics which have the strength of transforming people in the socialist direction.

In the past, as a result of stepping up and considering social work a major activity of the union, women in the city have made many valuable contributions to caring for the families of war invalids and fallen heroes and the needy and ill-fated families in outlying areas which are still enduring many deprivations. In reviewing and developing these important initial achievements and experiences, I am convinced that women in the city will launch a seething social work movement capable of attracting the participation of the people of all strata.

Difficulties will pass but man's kindness will last forever! When the country has prospered in the future, the kindness of each of us in time of poverty will never be forgotten because we will have shared hardships together just as an old saying goes: "A mouthful of food shared in time of starvation is as big as a whole loaf of bread in time of plenty."

On the occasion of the union's traditional day, once again I wish you all, mothers and sisters, happiness and new progress and achievements in your practical and fruitful activities for the sake of your noble social objectives, happines, and families !

Thank you, mothers, sisters, and comrades.

Australia

Keating Leaves for Indonesia, Papua New Guinea

BK2104021292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, has left on a tour of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Ian Macintosh reports from Jakarta that the Indonesian leadership has emphasized the importance of the trip.

Meanwhile, the chief of the Australian Defense Force, General Peter Gration, says the armed forces of the two countries have been forging a partnership. Macintosh says the statement was reported in Indonesia's leading daily newspaper, KOMPAS.

[Begin recording] [Macintosh] General Gration, who expressed satisfaction with recent developments in bilateral military relations, told KOMPAS he wanted to see air and general military exercises between the two countries as well as cooperation in logistics.

The Defense Force chief stressed that such development should be low-key and informal, proceeding slowly but steadily. He said the partnership which had developed would continue, even in difficult times such as which followed last year's events in Dili. Gen. Gration also told KOMPAS that Brigadier (Frank Hickling) of Northern Command had been instructed to develop direct contact across the Timor Sea with the Indonesian military region closest to Darwin—a command which includes East Timor. It is understood Brig. (Hickling) will next visit the command headquarters in Bali and is also expected to call at Kupang in West Timor. [end recording]

Fiji

Labor Party Considers Participating in Elections

BK2104070592 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Fiji's opposition Labor Party has announced that it might after all contest next month's general elections. It says it is under pressure from supporters to reconsider its boycott of the election.

A senior party official, Mahendra Chaudri, told the FIJI TIMES newspaper that party leaders would meet this week to review the issue. The party secretary general, Navin Maharaj, said the decision to reconsider the boycott was a result of pressure during meetings in western Fiji at the weekend.

The Labor Party voted to boycott the election in protest over the country's new constitution which it says is racist and undemocratic. The move led to a number of senior party members breaking away to form the New Labor Movement which is contesting the election—the first since the military coups of 1987.

Meanwhile, the leader of the two military coups, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, is reported to have called on other coup leaders to admit their roles in the takeovers. Gen. Rabuka, who now heads the Fijian Political Party, made the call at a political rally in Nasinu, near Suva.

In the past, Gen. Rabuka had implicated the primary industry minister, Viliame Gonelevu and the information minister, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, in the coups. Gen. Rabuka also told supporters he backed a call by one of his party's candidates for Fiji to be declared the Christian state. The move has been opposed by a number of political parties and religious groups, including some Christian churches.

Papua New Guinea

Government Plans To Counter Bougainville Rebels

BK1904111592 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] In Papua New Guinea the government and the defense force have drawn up a plan to prevent the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] from regaining control over the southern part of the island.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said the plan was drawn up during high-level discussions over the Easter weekend. The talks were held following the reported executions by the BRA of eight community leaders from southern Bougainville including former parliamentarian Tony Anugu. Mr. Namaliu described the killings as a real blow to the reestablishment of governmental authority in the south but said the government would not abandon the people there.

Mr. Namaliu says he cannot reveal details of the government's plans for obvious security reasons.

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